

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classificati n 7:

G06F 17/30

(11) International Publication Numb r:

WO 00/45301

(43) Internati nal Publication Dat:

3 August 2000 (03.08.00)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US00/01839

A1

(22) International Filing Date:

25 January 2000 (25.01.00)

(30) Priority Data:

09/240,048

29 January 1999 (29.01.99)

us

(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application

US Filed on 09/240,048 (CON)

- 1100 511

29 January 1999 (29.01.99)

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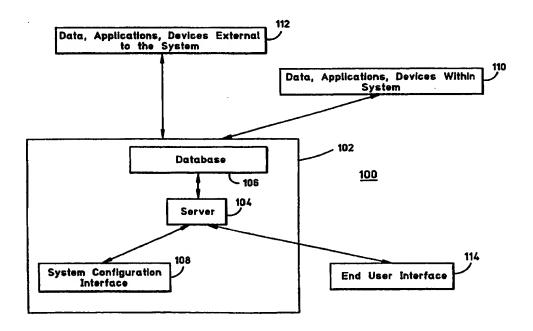
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- (81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DYNAMICALLY GENERATING A USER PRESENTATION BASED ON DATABASE STORED RULES



(57) Abstract

In a computer network such as a telemedicine network, a method of generating a user presentation for an application program includes selecting and retrieving at least one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases in response to a request from the application program; executing the rules to retrieve data from the one or more databases; and generating presentation data based on the data, where the presentation data is for use in the user presentation of the application program.

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Method and apparatus for dynamically generating a user presentation based on database stored rules

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to user presentations, and more particularly to user presentations in telemedicine applications.

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2. Description of the Related Art

Worldwide, people living in rural and remote areas often struggle to access timely, quality medical care. Residents of these areas often have substandard access to health care primarily because physicians tend to be located in areas of concentrated population. Due to innovations in computing and telecommunications technology, however, many facets of the medical practice are now realizable for the patient and health care provider who are geographically separated (whether it be across town, across state, or across the world).

"Telemedicine" often involves the sharing and/or transfer of medical information in a data communications network for purposes related to patient health. Sometimes referred to as "telehealth" or "distance health care," telemedicine may involve the bringing of health care services to a location where the individual client is most accessible or comfortable, while keeping costs down by making efficient use of resources. For example, electronic access to patient data and videoconferencing "visits" between a health care

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provider and the patient can, in many instances, replace traditional face-to-face visits.

The information shared and/or transferred may include patient records, high resolution images, stored or live audio, and stored or live video, all of which may be accessible through remote servers and databases. The telemedicine network may utilize a variety of telecommunications technologies, including ordinary telephone lines or Plain Old Telephone Systems (POTS), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), fractional to full T-1's, Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), the Internet, intranets, and satellites. Overall, telemedicine provides increased ubiquity, convenience, and efficiency in health care services.

Today, telemedicine is making a difference in the lives of many people across the world. In remote rural areas, where a patient and the closest health professional can be hundreds of miles apart, telemedicine can mean access to health care where little had been available before. In those cases where fast medical response time and specialty care are needed, telemedicine availability is critical and can mean the difference between life and death. Telemedicine also brings a wider range of services (e.g., radiology, mental health services, and dermatology) to underserved communities and individuals in both urban and rural areas. It also helps attract and retain health professionals in rural areas by providing ongoing training and collaboration with other health professionals.

A health professional or other user may interact with a telemedicine network using a telemedicine application program on a computer.

Telemedicine software generates a user interface presentation for the user to execute his/her series of particular tasks or telemedicine "workflow." The user interface presentation typically includes that which is visually displayed

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on a screen of the computer's monitor; the execution is handled using appropriate input/output (I/O) devices at the computer. For example, the software may provide an easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI) or multimedia interface. GUIs are well known, and typically include visually displayed objects for "point-and-click" functionality using a mouse, touchscreen, or voice activation. A multimedia interface is an extension to the GUI that includes audio, video, image, and even input for the other senses including touch, smell, and taste.

The user of the telemedicine software may be one of many people who serve specialized or limited functions, and who have specialized or limited needs and access rights to and within the network. For example, telemedicine is being utilized by a growing number of medical specialists, including dermatologists, oncologists, radiologists, cardiologists, psychiatrists, and home health care specialists. Not only health care providers, but payers, employers, patients, pharmacies, laboratories, and other organizations may interact with the system to share data. Even within each group, there are often users who serve different functions and have special needs and access rights (e.g., a group may include a health care specialist, a nurse, and support staff). Each of these users expects a user interface presentation that accommodates their particular needs and workflow. In many instances emergency health situations are presented, where the appropriate presentation of data and functionality is critical and determine the outcome.

A developer of telemedicine software typically has to struggle to accommodate each user with software that provides such unique presentations. Providing several versions of software is costly in terms of software development, maintenance, and administration. Source code needs to be edited and/or added, re-compiled, and delivered for each version of

software. If this undesirable development strategy is chosen, the added costs involved are likely to be passed on to purchasers of the software.

As an alternative, the developer may provide only a single or a limited number of software versions having a single or limited number of presentations. Since many different kinds of users will interact with it, the presentation will likely be too "functionally congested" for any one user to intuitively understand his/her particular workflow. Put another way, such a presentation will not be ergonomically appropriate for each user. In addition, the savings associated with this presentation inflexibility will be at the expense of losing customers who prefer to have customized presentations.

Accordingly, there is a need for a method and apparatus in telemedicine and other fields that overcomes these and other deficiencies of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment described, a method of dynamically generating a user presentation comprises selecting and retrieving at least one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases in response to a request from an application program; executing the rule to retrieve data from the one or more databases; and generating presentation data based on the data, where the presentation data is for use in the user presentation of the application program.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- FIG. 1 is an illustration of a computer network 100, which may be a telemedicine network;
 - FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a client 200 of computer network 100;
 - FIG. 3 is a block diagram of defined layers of computer network 100;
- FIGs. 4 and 5 are block diagrams describing a more particular architecture;
- FIGs. 6A and 6B are flowcharts describing a method of client interaction within network 100;
 - FIGs. 7A and 7B are flowcharts describing a method of server interaction within network 100;
 - FIG. 8 is a flowchart describing a method of dynamically generating a user presentation based on database stored rules;
 - FIG. 9 is a flowchart describing a method of building a page of "navigation" framework type;
 - FIG. 10 is an example illustration of a screen of the navigation framework type;
- FIG. 11 is a flowchart describing a method of building a page of "list" framework type;
 - FIG. 12 is an example illustration of a screen of the list type;
 - FIG. 13 is a flowchart describing a method of building a page of "data I/O" framework type;
- FIG. 14 is an example illustration of a screen of the data I/O framework type;
 - FIG. 15 is a flowchart describing a method of entering, into the system, a page of the "user-defined" type;

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- FIG. 16 is an example illustration of a screen showing the "user-defined" type;
- FIG. 17 is an example illustration of an "Audio Note" screen of the data I/O framework type;
- FIG. 18 is an example illustration of a "Text Note" screen of the data I/O framework type;
- FIG. 19 is an example illustration of an "Image Import" screen of the data I/O framework type;
- FIG. 20 is an example illustration of a screen of the data I/O framework type, where the screen incorporates several system and user defined components;
 - FIG. 21 is an example illustration of the data I/O framework type, where the screen incorporates system and user-defined components;
 - FIG. 22 is a flowchart describing the function LoadActionObjects;
 - FIG. 23 is a flowchart describing the function LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure;
 - FIG. 24 is a flowchart describing the function GetListHeaders;
 - FIG. 25 is a flowchart describing the function GetListObjects;
 - FIG. 26 is a flowchart describing the function
- 20 LoadColumnStoredProcedure;
 - FIG. 27 is a flowchart describing the function LoadLabels;
 - FIGs. 28A and 28B are flowcharts describing the function GetDataFrames;
 - FIG. 29 is a flowchart describing the function LoadDataItemProcedure;
 - FIG. 30 is a flowchart describing the function GetSelectorList;
 - FIG. 31 is a flowchart describing the function LoadDataItem;
 - FIG. 32 is a flowchart describing the function AddValue;

- FIG. 33 is a flowchart describing the function SaveNewDataItem;
- FIG. 34 is a flowchart describing the function UpdateDataItem;
- FIG. 35 is a state diagram describing an alert notification subsystem;
- FIG. 36 is a block diagram describing a general design of the alert notification subsystem;
 - FIG. 37 is an example illustration of a presentation including an Alert User Interface; and
 - FIG. 38 is a block diagram describing interfaces and processes related to an Alert Processor.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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A method of dynamically generating a user presentation based on database stored rules serves a great need in computer networks, and especially in telemedicine networks. In one aspect, the method comprises selecting and retrieving at least one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases in response to a request from an application program; executing the rule to retrieve data from the one or more databases; and generating presentation data based on the data, where the presentation data is for use in the user presentation of the application program. The rules may be executed using control information (such as user information, group information, geographic location information, and node information) as input. The data retrieved from execution of the rules may be data such as user data or presentation control data.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a computer network or system 100, which may be a telemedicine network or system. Typically, system 100 includes one or more servers 104, a database 106 (such as one or more databases and database servers, and/or database warehouses) for storing data, a system configuration interface 108 which provides system configuration through a system administrator, an end user interface 114 for a user to access the system. Internal elements 110 and external elements 112 as described in FIG. 1 may also be included. Server 104 executes server

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software to manage several aspects of system 100. End user interface 114 (or client, or client workstation) may be a desktop computer or other device providing (input/output) I/O capabilities. As suggested by an outline 102 of FIG. 1, a user at end user interface 114 has a degree of independence from server 104, database 106, and system configuration interface 108.

As a telemedicine network, system 100 includes most required conventional aspects of such, providing those same or similar desired features outlined above in the Background Of The Invention. For example, the information shared and/or transferred at end user interface 114 may include full multimedia patient records, high resolution images, stored or live audio, and stored or live video, all of which may be accessible through remote servers and databases such as server 104 and database 106. System 100 may utilize a variety of telecommunications technologies, including ordinary telephone lines or Plain Old Telephone Systems (POTS), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), fractional to full T-1's, Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), the Internet, intranets, and satellites.

Referring now to FIGs. 6A and 6B, flowcharts that describe a method of client interaction within the network are shown. Starting at a start block 600, client requests access to the system (step 602). In response to the access request, client receives a logon screen at the visual display (step 604). The logon screen awaits logon information, such as a user name and a password or biometric information, from the user (step 606). The user enters the logon information, where client then sends the information to the server (step 608). If access is granted from the server (step 610), the flowchart continues at a connector 612 (connector "A") to FIG. 6B.

At FIG. 6B, client receives presentation data representing one of a plurality of presentations (step 614). Client generates and displays, on the

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visual display, the presentation according to the presentation data (step 616). Client then waits for a request from the user (step 618). If a request is received, then data in connection with the request is sent to server (step 620). In response to the request, client receives from the server presentation data representing another one of a plurality of presentations (step 614). The method repeats as shown, until the user logs off the system or the connection is terminated based on a configured timeout.

FIGs. 7A and 7B are flowcharts describing a method of server interaction within the network. Starting at a start block 700, the server receives a request from the client to access the system (step 702). In response to the access request, the server sends data for the logon screen to the client (step 704). The server awaits logon information from the user (step 706). The server receives the logon information from the client (step 708). If determined to be valid (step 708), the server grants the client access to the system where the flowchart continues at a connector 712 (connector "B") to FIG. 7B. Valid logon information establishes a session that is used to service client requests for presentation of accessible data and supported features and functions.

At FIG. 7B, the server generates presentation data representing one of a plurality of presentations (step 714). Server sends the presentation data to the client (step 716). Server then waits for a request from the user (step 718). When the request is received, appropriate data in connection with the request is received by the server (step 720). In response to the request, the server generates presentation data representing another one of a plurality of presentations (step 714) and sends the data to the client (step 716). The method repeats as shown, until the user logs off the system or the connection to the system is terminated based on the configured timeout.

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FIG. 8 is a flowchart describing a method of dynamically generating a user presentation, which may be incorporated into steps 714 and 716 of FIG. 7B. Starting at a start block 800, the server selects and retrieves user presentation rules from one or more databases in response to a request by the client (step 802). The server executes these user presentation rules to retrieve data from the database(s) (step 804). The server builds presentation data using this data (step 806). The presentation data is formatted and sent by the server for the generation of the user presentation at the client (step 808). The flowchart ends at a block 810.

The user presentation rules may be referred to as presentation instructions. Many user presentation rules may be stored in the database (tens, hundreds, thousands, etc.). When accessed by the server software, a subset of the user presentation rules may be selected (referring back to step 802) based on one or more of several different types of information (selection criteria), such as user identification, user group identification, user request or requested function or page, node identification, geographic location identification, hardware/software capabilities or availabilities of the accessing node, data being presented, patient identification, patient diagnosis, patient treatment, medical test results, medical history of the patient, patient's relatives, or ethnic group, etc. Once obtained, the user presentation rules may be executed with one or more of several different types of input information (execution criteria) into the rule (referring back to step 804), such as user identification, user group identification, user request or requested function or page, node identification, geographic location identification, hardware/software capabilities or availabilities of the accessing node, time, date, data being presented, patient identification, patient diagnosis, patient treatment, medical test results, medical history of the

patient, patient's relatives, or ethnic group, etc. The different types of information may be stored in the database or sent with client request.

Some examples of user rules are provided below in plain English for understanding and clarity. These examples are by no means exhaustive:

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Provide a navigation button having a link to "Cancer Task Force" page only if USER GROUP = "Cancer Task Force";

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Provide a patient scheduling function button given if 9:00am < TIME < 5:00pm and USER = "Assistant";

Get patient data only for USER = "Dr_Ainsworth";

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Provide image functionality interface only if H/S CAPABILITIES OF THE ACCESSING NODE = "image_compatible";

Present all containers or base data in this container to all requesting users who are members of group G1 but not USERS = (U1, U2, U3, ...) and not in group G2;

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If ENTRY = "new pediatric patient", create all basic pediatric forms for the clinic (F1[new patient form], F2[growth chart], ..., FN), with the appropriate data of the patient added to the forms, and calculate dates for inoculations for state, federal, or health plan mandated/supported inoculations based on the patient's age, prior inoculations, and the insured's health plan; and

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Provide selection of a mammogram lab test only if the patient is of GENDER = "female", "X years" < AGE < "Y years", MASTECTOMY = "no", and the patient's medical plan (per the insured) allows an exam without explicit approval per the time since the patient's last mammogram; AND create an instance of the reporting form F1 to the medical plan with the appropriate patient data and forward it to INSUR_CO per INSUR_CO_COMMUNICATIONS_METHOD and the lab request F2 to LAB supported under the insured's insurance plan per LAB_COMMUNICATIONS_METHOD, with process P scheduled to reschedule the patient for a follow-up examination at location L with the clinician requesting the lab result C1 or their designated alternates C3 --> Cn based on priority at the point where the results from the lab are R1 --> Rn, but not R6, and in the case of R6, alert clinician C2 that the patient is to be informed via email if EMAIL = "enabled" and/or phone if PHONE_NOTIFICATION = "on" and/or by mail if MAIL_NOTIFICATION = "on".

The user presentation rules are stored in the database, and thus may be modified, added, or deleted — without affecting the compiled server source code that evaluates them. New rules or modifications to existing rules can be made by a network administrator, or a user if given appropriate access rights and/or knowledge. When a new customer or group is given access to the system, or if an existing customer has new needs, new user presentation rules can be added or modified per customer request without having to change the compiled server source code. The server source code architecture is configured so that it can interpret the rules to produce presentation of any I/O objects supported by the system, initiate any process

or interface supported by the system or other accessible systems, or initiate an I/O action by a user related to a presentation.

The user presentation preferably comprises data and graphical user interface (GUI) components or a multimedia interface. A GUI is indeed a "graphical" interface -- in contrast to purely "textual" interface -- to a computer program application. GUIs came into existence following the first interactive user interfaces to computers which were not graphical, but merely keyboard driven using text commands. The command interface of the disk operating system (DOS) operating system is an example of the typical user-computer interface before GUIs arrived. GUI terminology include one or more metaphors for objects familiar in real life, such as a desktop, a view through a window, or the physical layout of a building. Elements of a GUI are known and described as windows or browser, pull-down menus, buttons, scroll bars, iconic images, wizards, images, a mouse, etc. With the increasing use of multimedia, sound, voice, motion video, and more are becoming part of the GUI or multimedia interface.

User data is stored in the databases for many different users to access, but with restrictions. For example, patient data for many doctors is stored in a telemedicine network, but typically every doctor has rights to view only patient data associated with his/her own patients. However, some or all of the patient data may need to be shared between users depending on the need. As another example, an assistant to a doctor may have rights to see limited portions of patient data (e.g., that data required for patient scheduling) while the doctor has rights to see all of the data associated with his/her patients. With the dynamic GUI presentation, for example, users having rights to all or some of the same data can view the same data with different presentations.

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Thus, users in a computer network can be provided with potentially limitless flexibility in user presentations to accommodate their particular needs and workflow. Appropriate restrictions to functionality and data are enhanced and more flexible. For everyday convenience, and in cases where emergency situations are presented, the ergonomically appropriate presentation of data and functionality will be of great assistance. A developer of software no longer has to struggle to accommodate each user by changing the compiled source code, minimizing costs for themselves and purchasers.

As described, the methods herein are employed using software for use on one or more servers. The software may be embodied on one or more storage mediums (e.g., computer disks), or made available for server use by other suitable means (e.g., electronic transfer).

Provided below are embodiments describing, in more detail, approaches used with respect to building dynamic presentations. The detailed embodiments do not serve to limit the scope of the invention, but only to enable one skilled in the art how to practice the invention in better detail and to disclose the best mode thereof.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a client 200. Client 200 may be a simple workstation (desktop computer), for example, or one embellished with telemedicine devices and applications as shown. Client 200 runs a client application 202, which embodies or houses a Web browser to enable the user to access the server via Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) (Internet, intranet, Local Area Network (LAN), Wide Area Network (WAN)). At (1), medical devices attach to client 200 and either directly interface with client application 202 or medical device software. At (2), client application 202 interfaces with the medical device software to access and present medical device data. At (3), printers, scanners, and other devices

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attached to client 200 use system services to support processing requested by client application 202. At (4), client application 202 presents the user with a GUI on a visual display monitor 206 for initiating access to all of client's 200 services (applications, data, printers, scanners, etc.). User initiated input is processed by client application 202 which determines the availability of the service, initiates the services, and presents the user with the resulting data or presentation from the service. At (5), client application 202 interfaces with teleconferencing software to manage teleconferencing connections using the teleconferencing standards appropriate for client 200 configuration (e.g., either H.320 or H.323).

At (6), the teleconferencing software manages a coder/decoder (CODEC) interface. At (7), microphone(s) are shared between the CODEC and the client application 202 to initiate audio capture and audio/video capture capabilities; these may also be routed by the application to other media (for example, a Virtual Tape Storage media) capable of storing audio, audio/video, or multimedia data. At (8), speakers are shared between the CODEC and client application 202 to initiate audio replay. At (9), camera(s) and camera enabled devices are attached to the CODEC. Client application 202 controls the display and functions of the CODEC and teleconferencing software's interface to the camera. This includes live video display, self and remote views, camera source selection, and remote and automated camera control. At (10), the camera(s) can also be attached to a capture card capable of capturing still images or video from these camera sources. Cameras supporting TWAIN or other application interfaces can be connected to the client using available supported ports (serial, parallel, Universal Serial Bus (USB), Firewire, etc.) and interfaced to the application for the input of still image or multimedia acquisition. At (11), client application 202 controls

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the interface to the capture card in response to user requests for image or video capture. At (12), client application 202 controls the interface to the LAN or WAN connections on client 200 to access a web server. These can be via a network interface card (NIC), modems, or CODECs. At (13), client application 202 processes all user input and coordinates system services and other application presentation and services for users.

Referring now to FIG. 3, an overview of system 100 of FIG. 1 is provided. System 100 is based on an N-tiered client-server architecture. Three layers that comprise the system are an I/O layer 302, a server layer 304, and a data layer 306. I/O layer 302 renders and presents the information to the user, and receives and processes input from the user. Server layer 304 processes the user requests and stores/retrieves the information for the user. Data layer 306 stores the data (user and system data) and makes the data available for storage/retrieval by server layer 304. The reason this architecture is N-tiered is that the server layer and the data layer can be distributed across numerous logical and physical devices.

FIGs. 4 and 5 describe the particular architecture utilized in the present embodiment. As shown, the client display is hosted on a client machine running the display element of a web browser, such as Microsoft (MS) Internet Explorer (IE) web browser (version 4.01) provided by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington. The display screens for the web browser are generated and served from a web server, such as an MS Internet Information Server (IIS) (version 4.0), using Active Server Pages (ASP) technology. The user and system data used by the ASP to build and present the various presentations of the system are supplied by Active Server Components (ASC) running on an application server, such as MS Transaction Server (MTS) (version 2.0). The ASCs store and retrieve the data from a

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database server, such as an MS SQL Server (version 6.5), which provides the mechanism for data storage. All of this Microsoft technology is well known and understood by those skilled in the art.

The Internet is a network of networks which facilitates the transfer of data among numerous users who are connected to the network. The World Wide Web (the "Web") is the name of a high level user interface which has been created on the Internet to make transfers of data easier and more logical. The Web provides users with a distributed menu system. Menu pages or screens are displayed to users through which the user can easily request information from another computer, or host. One feature of the Web is the ability to nonlinearly link or jump from one set of information to another through display elements called hypertext links. When a screen displays something in the characteristic of a hypertext link, the user has the ability to click on the hypertext element and immediately be transferred to the data or information identified by the hypertext, whether the data is at the same host as the displayed information or at some other host location somewhere else in the world. Typically, the user has the ability to thereafter click back to the original screen display, or follow a sequence of links to sought-after information which can then be transmitted, or downloaded, from that host. A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is an address for a resource on the Internet. Web addresses with the prefix "http://" denote Web screens with hypertext linking capability which conform to published RFC standards.

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) pages describe what a Web browser will display on the screen at a remote terminal. This includes buttons text, images, animated real time loops of images, sounds, and so forth. Web pages contain HTML tags of data which describe how the page is to be interpreted by a Web browser at a remote terminal. For reference only,

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HTML pages may be directly encoded in software by following that published in a number of reference texts such as HTML and CGI Unleashed, by John December and Mark Ginsburg, published by Sams.net Publishing, Indianapolis, Ind.; simple HTML pages may be written using desktop publishing and word processing software, then encoded in HTML form using software known as the Internet Assistant, which may be downloaded through Microsoft's homepage at www.microsoft.com; public domain software known as "Web-maker" may be downloaded from the Internet and used to make Web pages.

Referring back generally to FIGs. 4 and 5, typical usage of the system is described. The system is initiated. The web browser engine that constitutes the display requests the logon screen from the web server. The web server renders the logon screen and sends it to the browser, and the browser displays the logon screen. The user types in a username and password. This information is sent back to the web server which in turn sends the username and the password to the application server that validates the username and the password against the entries in the database.

If the username and password are valid, then the appropriate home screen (i.e., the first screen presented to that user) is built, typically based on (at least in part) the logged on user's group membership, rules for the user, and the user's interface language preference. Most presentations are built using generic display framework code on the web server, where one of several different generic frameworks is called to build the requested screen. In the embodiment described, three generic frameworks are designed: the navigation framework, data list framework, and the data I/O framework.

The appropriate generic framework calls the necessary application server functions to retrieve system data (information used to render the

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page) and user data (user input information) stored in database(s). The generic framework uses the returned system data as "blueprint" information to render the appropriate page using pre-defined display components as building blocks. The pre-defined display components are stored in the web server as files and utilized as needed. The client code (HTML) needed to render the requested screen is constructed on the web server and sent to the client display. The client display "paints" the screen and awaits user interaction and input. In accordance with the user inputs or requests, the requested screens are built using the display framework, the display components, and the database data.

A particular feature that makes the system unique relates to the fact that the "blueprint information" required to build the various screens and associated functions is stored in the database and is modifiable without changes to the compiled server program. The compiled code for the system acts merely as a general framework to allow the user to configure and extend the system to match how the user will use the system (e.g., appropriate for his/her "workflow").

The architectural design of the system is configurable to accommodate different technology or platform selections. For example, the display does not have to be implemented using web server/web browser technology, but can use any I/O device. Any suitable database management system (DBMS) may also be used, such as any American National Standards Institute (ANSI) compliant SQL relational DBMS.

25 Terminology Used In The Detailed Embodiment

User. A "user" is a person who accesses the system. Typically, the user is authorized to access the system and has a logon name and valid

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password. A user is defined in the system with a unique logon name on the server that they initially connect to. Users can span multiple servers or resources. In the case where the user access to information and functions spans multiple servers or other resources, they are identified to those resources unambiguously.

Group. A "group" is a collection of users associated together to share access to the same or similar presentation, functionality, and/or data. A group is identified by a unique group name. Users may belong to any number of groups. Grouping of users is provided to allow the system to be configured to meet the needs of a client organization as it relates to making users "like" one another for purposes of data sharing or access to available resources.

Location. A "location" is the client node or the physical workstation from which the user interacts with the system. The location is identified with a unique symbolic location name as well as a unique location description. Along with the location identification, the capabilities of the location to support applications and the various multimedia capabilities of that location are stored in the database(s) so that the user can be presented with only those options supported at the location.

Session. A "session" is the work performed by a particular user over some period of time. A session is characterized by a given user on a specific location of the system, from logon until logoff. The session is identified with a unique id that is programmatically generated when the session is initiated.

Presentation. In general, a "presentation" is that information conveyed by or used at an I/O device to provide all or some part of a user interface. The information may include output information and control information. In this embodiment, the presentation comprises a GUI

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presentation provided at a visual display monitor or a "screen" (see below). However, other "presentations" may be used to accomplish I/O processing and provided at other types of I/O devices (e.g., a touch screen display, voice-activated device, etc.).

Screen. "Screens" are the visual display presentations provided to the user on a visual display (e.g., computer display monitor). Screens are dynamic in that they may display different functional objects as well as different data. The criteria for determining functionality and data access is typically based on (but not limited to) user, group, and location specification.

Page. A "page" is the canvas upon which the various display elements are rendered. The pages are dynamically rendered based on configuration data in the database. The result of rendering the page is a screen or screen region (subset of the entire display area) which is displayed to the user. A page is typically virtual and as such its definition in the database requires only a unique symbolic page name. A real active server page may optionally be correlated with the symbolic name.

Display Component. "Display components" are used by the various frameworks to build pages. They typically provide a GUI for some functionality, such as audio record/playback, text note, image capture, etc. A display component may embody one or more Base Objects.

Action Object. An "action object" is a display element that effects some sort of action when selected by the user. Action objects are used to invoke new functionality, which may result in navigation to a new screen. For example, the user may select "Patient List" to navigate to a presentation of all patients to which they have access. An action object may also represent requests for client or server processing appropriate to the current function being performed by the user. For example, the user may select "Print" to

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obtain a hard copy print out of the patient list, and yet not have a resulting change in the screen displayed after initiation of the action. An action object is rendered per its definition that includes a specification not only for the location on the page, but also the label and/or image to be drawn. Based on the available information, action objects may be rendered as hyperlink text, hyperlink images with or without text, buttons, or other visual or even audible controls (e.g., voice-activated action objects).

Label. A "label" is that which is displayed (e.g., a text string) in association with some object, and can be interpreted based on a designated language of the user. Labels are associated with pages for generic text display, visual display, audio presentation or other multimedia presentation; lists for column headings; and action objects for associating a label with an action. Labels may be stored in the database in multiple languages. The "languages" supported may include customized client versions that resemble dialects. The database configuration for a user includes their display language of choice. Labels are retrieved from the database and rendered on the display in the language/preference of the user. Defining a label in the system involves providing a unique symbolic name for the label and the actual text string/multimedia object associated with the label in each of the languages supported. In this way, the client can also effectively produce an interface that is unique without any change to the application code or executables.

Language. "Language" refers to a set of presentation items that can be configured by a user or set of users. This can relate to text: human language, dialects, specific terminology for an organization, etc. It can also include multimedia presentation data that can be configured by a user or set of users to support a unique presentation.

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Container Type. A "container type" is a term used to represent data in the system that has a container hierarchy type structure. Lists are an example of containers. The list itself contains some number of columns. Containers are one of the system data building blocks. A container can contain other containers or base data. Containers also have attributes (name, display, image, audio presentation, creation date, etc.), all of which can be used in a presentation of the container, or used to sort or order groups of containers within a presentation.

Base Object. The multimedia data elements (Base Data) that are presented as a unit by the system, and for which there is no further decomposition, are created by Base Objects. Base Objects come in two "flavors": those that are system defined and are data building blocks thereof (text producing, image producing, audio producing, audio/video producing, Health Level 7 (HL7) message producing, notification producing, or other interface protocol producing objects for example), and those that are client or system defined based on a combination of system Base Objects (scanner producing, progress note producing, Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) producing, client application interface producing, for example). Base Objects specify the attributes (name, display image, audio presentation, creation date, creation user, X/Y presentation size and units, etc.) that each Base Data instance will have.

Base Data. "Base Data" are instances of data based on user I/O with a Base Object. They are the multimedia data elements that are presented as a unit by the system and for which there is no further decomposition. Base Data also have attributes (name, display image, audio presentation, creation date, user creating the Base Data instance, etc.), all of which can be used in a presentation of the Base Data or used to sort or order groups of Base Data

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within a presentation.

List. A "list" is a display element that provides a tabular presentation of data. A list is a specialized container type. Columns of a list are defined in the database, whereas rows in a list (actual data elements) are determined by an action rule of the selected action object. A list itself is defined with a unique symbolic container type name. Then, the following information is provided for each column displayed in the list: label (used for column heading); column rule (an SQL query resulting in the desired attribute for the data element); load order (defines order which should be used to retrieve information for the database); display order (defines the order for rendering the information on the tabular presentation); and display format (optional parameter to specify special formatting to be performed on the data value).

Sequence Presentation. A "sequence presentation" is a presentation that allows multiple pages to be displayed simultaneously, in a consecutive fashion, in a data I/O framework (e.g., using frames for a browser). Each sequence is specified in the database with a unique symbolic name. Each page of a sequence presentation is defined with information including display order, submit order, data type, HTML page name, and HTML anchor name.

Access Rule. "Access rules" are instructions associated with action objects to control availability of functionality. At runtime, the access rules are fired and, based on the outcome, an action object will be enabled or disabled for a particular instance of a page's rendering. In this embodiment, an access rule is an SQL query which is stored in the database. While the access rule may evaluate based on the user, user group(s), prior presentations (routes) to the current presentation, and client node configuration information stored in the database, it is not prohibited from utilizing any criteria in its evaluation. An access rule is defined using a unique symbolic rule name and the rule

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expression (e.g., SQL query). The rule must be encoded to return at least one value to enable the functionality.

Action Rule. "Action rules" are instructions associated with action objects to control access of data (e.g., patient records). At runtime, the action rule is fired to return identification for the data elements that are to be displayed. In this embodiment, an action rule is an SQL query which is stored in the database. An action rule is defined using a unique symbolic rule name and the rule expression (e.g., SQL query). The rule is encoded to return identification of all data elements to be displayed.

More on Action Objects. Availability of action objects is controlled by access rules. Selection of an action object navigating to another page that displays data, utilizes the action rule associated with the action object to limit data access. An action object is defined using the following information: a unique symbolic action object name; an access rule; an action rule (optional unless the action object navigates to another screen displaying data); a label (optional if an image is to be displayed representing selection); an image (optional if a label is to be displayed representing selection); a URL (parameter identifying action to be performed given user selects the action object); URL parameters (optional parameter identifying any additional information required by the action object handler if the action object is selected); a list type (optional unless the action object is a column of a list presentation); an action type (optional unless for action objects associated with a list presentation); a launch (optional parameter used to direct the launch of a new browser for display of resultant screen); and a target (optional parameter to identify the screen region to be updated with new display). Once defined, the action objects are associated with pages. In the embodiment described, this association includes: a unique symbolic page

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name; a unique symbolic action object name; a screen location identifier; and a display order (to control the placement of action objects on the page in the same location).

5 Implementation of the Detailed Embodiment

FIGs. 9, 11, and 13 are flowcharts describing the methods of building/assembling different types of presentation pages. FIGs. 10, 12, and 14 are example illustrations of those presentation types and correspond to FIGs. 9, 11, and 13, respectively. With respect to the flowcharts of FIGs. 9, 11, and 13, and the associated flowcharts of FIGs. 22-33, APPENDIX A describing the associated database tables should be referenced. In this embodiment, one of the different general framework types is selected and executed based on the request (e.g., requested screen) from the client. In addition, the methods described in relation to FIGs. 9, 11, and 13 are executed with software, using ASP technology.

FIG. 9 is a flowchart describing a method of building or assembling a presentation page of the "navigation" type. An illustration of the navigation type screen is shown in FIG. 10. The navigation display framework builds the menu selections that allow the user to navigate to the various screens of the system. The action object in the context of the navigation page provides a mechanism to allow the user to move to a different screen within the system.

Beginning at a start block 900 in FIG. 9, the web server calls a LoadActionObjects function in the application server to get Action Objects from a "Standard Navigation" collection for the navigation options (step 902). LoadActionObjects is described later in relation to FIG. 22. Next, the web server builds an HTML page using the Action Objects (step 904). The web server sends this HTML page information to the client for presentation (step

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906). At the client, the browser renders the standard navigation screen using the information, and the browser waits for a user selection or request. The flowchart ends at a block 908. Once a navigational action object has been clicked or selected by the user, the browser will navigate to the requested screen.

The following information is used from the "Standard Navigation"

Action Objects: Navigation label; Navigation page name (URL); Navigation

parameters (URL Parameters); Navigation page target (display region);

Navigation icon/thumbnail image; and Navigation Action Object ID number.

FIG. 11 is a flowchart describing a method of building or assembling a presentation page of the "list" type. An illustration of the list type screen is shown in FIG. 12, which includes the main components thereof. As shown, the data list display framework is used to display a list of items to the user. Beginning at a start block 1100 in FIG. 11, the web server calls the LoadActionObjects function (FIG. 22) in the application server to get Action Objects for the navigation options for the page (step 1102). Next, the web server selects the "List Containers" Action Objects (step 1104) and the "Command Area" Action Objects (step 1106) from the returned Action Objects. The web server builds and sends the HTML page data to the client for presentation (step 1108). At the client, the browser renders the outer portions of the tabbed list page (tabs, command buttons). The preceding steps are associated with Data List Controls — drawing the control portion of the list page (e.g., tabs).

The following information is used from the "List Containers" Action
Objects (at step 1104): Number of tabs; Tab label font name, size & weight;
Tab label; Tab status (enabled or disabled); Tab navigation page name
(URL); Tab navigation parameters (URL Parameters); and Tab Action Object

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ID number. The following information is used from the "Command Area" Action Objects (at step 1112): Command button label; Command button Action Object ID number; Command button navigation page or action subroutine call; Command button navigation page parameter or subroutine parameter; and Command button navigation target (page region).

Next, the web server calls a GetListHeaders function in the application server to get column headers, and calls a GetListObjects function in the application server to get appropriate data (step 1110). GetListHeaders is described later in relation to FIG. 24, and GetListObjects is described later in relation to FIG. 25. The web server then calls the LoadActionObjects function (FIG. 22) in the application server to get "Command Area" Action Objects for the list page (step 1112). The web server builds and sends the HTML page data to the client for presentation (step 1114). At the client, the browser renders the data table with the header and data list information using the data, and the browser waits for a user selection or request. The preceding steps (steps 1110-1114) are associated with the Data List itself — building the actual list table and actions for the list. The flowchart ends at a block 1116.

The sequence of all the steps in FIG. 11 are executed quickly so that the user sees one new presentation screen after the client browser renders all of the HTML information. Once a tab has been clicked or selected by the user, then the "List Data" section is rendered with the requested page. If the Action Object is selected from the data list, then the browser will navigate to the requested screen.

The following information is returned from GetListHeaders for the data table header: Column header label; and Column header display order. The following information is returned from GetListObjects for each of the data table elements (cells): Column data display order; and Column data, which

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includes: icon/thumbnail; label/text; Action Object (contains similar information as "Command Area" button or "Standard Navigation" link); and selection checkbox.

FIG. 13 is a flowchart describing a method of building or assembling a presentation screen of the "data I/O" type. An illustration of the data I/O type page is shown in FIG. 14. The data I/O framework is used to build the screens used for data input and presentation. The data I/O framework assembles various display components to produce a page that presents a data item.

These display components may be system provided components, or they may be user-created HTML files (described in more detail below). As shown in FIG. 14, the Personal Information, Patient Information, Medical Record Number and Image Capture display components are used to assemble the Patient Registration page. To generate new data pages, the user needs to only generate the display component (in HTML or ASP) and configure the database to define the new data pages.

Beginning at a start block 1300 in FIG. 13, the server calls a GetDataFrames function in the application server to get sequence presentation information for the page to be rendered (step 1102). GetDataFrames is described later in relation to FIGs. 28A and 28B. Next, the web server creates frame navigation buttons using Frame navigation information returned from GetDataFrames (step 1304). Then, the web server calls the LoadActionObjects function (FIG. 22) in the application server to get the "Command Area" Action Objects (step 1306). The web server builds and sends the HTML page data to the client for presentation (step 1308). The client browser renders the data input controls (outer navigation, display, and command sections).

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The following information is returned for each of the frames in a data item: Display order sequence; Submit (save) order sequence; Page label and name; Page section navigation (anchor); Component to load name (URL); Save component name (URL); Cancel component name (URL); Component display size; Electronic signature needed flag; ASC name for load/save; Data item ID (for saved data); and Data type ID. The following information is used from the "Command Area" Action Objects: Command button label; Command button Action Object ID number; Command button to navigate to different screen or to call a subroutine; Parameter for navigating to a different screen or parameters to call a subroutine; and Information for where to draw the new screen or page.

Next, the web server calls a LoadLabels function in the application server to get dynamic text labels (if any) for the data element components (step 1310). LoadLabels is described later in relation to FIG. 27. The web server then calls a GetSelectorList function in the application server to get selection options for the selectors (if any) on the data element components (step 1312). GetSelectorList is described later in relation to FIG. 30. The web server builds and sends the HTML page data to the client for presentation (step 1314). The sequence of steps in FIG. 13 are executed quickly so that the user sees one new presentation screen after the client browser renders all of the HTML information. The flowchart ends at a block 1316.

At the client, a user enters/updates data into the data element components of the screen and selects one of the "Command Area" buttons for the server to act accordingly. The browser responds to user buttons selections by: Client-side actions through scripting, such as printing the current page to paper; Navigates to a "save" page to save or update the user

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input data using ASCs (e.g., by calling AddValue to save the value and calling SaveNewDataItem for new data and UpdateDataItem for updates to existing data in the VMGenericData ASC); and Navigates to a "cancel" page and returns the user to the previous screen.

In addition to pre-defined system components, customized "userdefined" components may be utilized in the system as well. Typically, a userdefined component attempts to duplicate actual paper forms used in the user's office. As described herein, certain core display components are "prebuilt" and may be used in sequence presentation definitions. These display components include the personal information component, the patient information component, the medical record number component, the data item description component, the image/portrait capture component, the scan image component, the import image file component, the audio capture component, the text input component, the video capture component, and others. To create new data I/O pages, display components may be defined in the sequence presentation definition along with user-defined display components (e.g., HTML files). No changes to the compiled, core program are necessary. An example illustration of a page including user-defined components is shown in FIG. 16. This screen contains three HTML files that are user created using an HTML generation tool (e.g., MS FrontPage '98).

FIG. 15 is a flowchart describing a method of entering a "user-defined" component into the system for utilization in a page. Typically, this procedure would be executed by a system administrative user in a manual fashion. Starting at a start block 1500 of FIG. 15, the user creates a display component (e.g., an HTML file using an HTML generation tool) (step 1502). This component is stored in the web server as a file along with the predefined components. As shown in FIG. 16, three new display components (Allergies,

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Patient Data, and Vital Signs components) were created.

The newly created HTML file is processed through a software tool that generates a database table generation script (step 1504). The tool is written to scan the HTML file to look for data elements and to generate a script which, when executed, will appropriately allocate storage space in the database based on those data elements. The script is then executed to create a new database table which stores the information from input elements of the HTML file (step 1506). For example, in the "Vital Signs" section in FIG. 16, the fields corresponding to "Date", "Wt." (weight), "B.P." (blood pressure), "Pulse", and "Ht." (height) would be newly created fields of a new "Vital Signs" database table.

Next, the database is modified to define a sequence presentation (step 1508). The sequence presentation for FIG. 16 uses three user-created HTML files and an existing data list page as a component (4 display components total). The information for a sequence presentation includes: (1) what HTML/ASP components to display, (2) in what order to display the HTML/ASP components, (3) the section header text, (4) the data type specification for saving the data to appropriate database tables created using the tool, (5) the mechanism through which the data is loaded and saved, and (6) the amount of screen to dedicate to displaying the component. A generic mechanism for loading and saving the data is provided as part of the system.

The database is modified to create a sequence presentation that defines the new data I/O page and assign Action Objects to that page (e.g., Save button, Cancel button, Edit button, etc.) (step 1510). For the example above, a "Cover Page" was defined and the Save, Edit, and Cancel buttons assigned to that page. Next, the database is modified to define an Action Object that will allow access to the newly created data I/O page (step 1512).

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The "Cover Page" action object was created for this example. Finally, the page(s) that will host the Action Object are configured to allow access to the newly created data I/O page, and the Action Object is added to that page (step 1514). As shown in FIG. 16, the "Cover Page" action object was assigned to the "Cover Page" tab of the Patient Chart.

FIGs. 17-21 are example illustrations of screens dynamically generated using the methods described herein. Note that the screens of FIGs. 20 and 21, as well as the screen in FIG. 16, are shown in extended fashions for illustration clarity only and allow the use of well-known scroll bars for full viewing.

FIG. 17 is an example illustration of an "Audio Note" screen of the data I/O framework type, which has been dynamically generated using the described methods herein. A user may enter text information in the fields under Data Item Information, and record and listen to audio using the audio component area. The general framework is used to host two data I/O components. The Data Item Description and Audio components were created in ASP. The general framework code retains no specific knowledge about the two components, except what was loaded in during program execution time from the database.

FIG. 18 is an example illustration of a "Text Note" screen of the data I/O framework type, which has been dynamically generated using the methods described herein. A user may enter text data in the fields shown and save it to the database.

FIG. 19 is an example illustration of an "Image Import" screen of the data I/O framework type, which has been dynamically generated using the methods described herein. Again, the same framework code is used to support an Import Image data I/O page. The only major difference between

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this and the Audio Note screen is the actual data I/O components used (Data Item Information and Import Image ASP pages) and the sequence presentation information in the database.

FIG. 20 is an example illustration of a screen of the data I/O framework type, where the page incorporates several system and user defined components, which has been dynamically generated using the methods described herein. In this example showing a client-specific "Patient Registration" page, the core display components (Patient Information & Image Capture components) are integrated with a user-provided HTML file (Patient Registration component). Again, no change to the compiled code was necessary to generate this page. The user-provided Patient Registration component attempts to duplicate the actual paper forms used in the user's office.

FIG. 21 is an example illustration of the data I/O framework type, where the page incorporates system and user defined components, which has been dynamically generated using the methods described herein. The page here further imitates the actual paper form by eliminating the different section headers and dividing lines for the last four components. By configuring the sequence presentation not to include headers for each component, the display components are seamlessly "glued" together to present a singular form look. Image data may be particularly important to show visual status of patients, as in the case shown in FIG. 21 of a patient looking very ill.

For use in relation to the methods described in relation to FIGs. 9, 11, and 13, FIGs. 22-33 are flowcharts describing server actions taken for the dynamic generation of such presentations. The methods described in relation to FIGs. 22-33 are executed with software using ASCs on the application

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server. As mentioned above, the detailed embodiment described herein does not serve to limit the scope of the invention, but only to enable one skilled in the art how to practice the invention and to disclose the best mode thereof.

Function LoadActionObjects. FIG. 22 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadActionObjects. LoadActionObjects identifies the action objects associated with the named page to which the user logged on at the particular location has access. Output from the function is a collection that identifies the action objects with all the parameters required by the GUI software.

	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	PageName	symbolic name for page
	UserId	logon user identifier
15	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display
	•	language identifier
	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value
20		pairs of information
		necessary to process the
		access rules of the action
		objects
		•
25	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
	List	collection of action
	•	objects and all the
		parameters describing the
		action object formatting

The method is performed as described in the FIG. 22. With respect to step 2202, the following instructions may be performed:

SELECT <PageId> = PAGE_ID FROM Pages WHERE PAGE_NAME = <PageName>

With respect to steps 2204, 2206, and 2208, the following instructions may be performed:

SELECT AO.*, PAO.*, GTS.Text_String
FROM Action_Objects AS AO
INNER JOIN Page_Action_Objects AS PAO
ON AO.Action_Object_ID = PAO.Action_Object_ID
INNER JOIN Gui_Text_Strings AS GTS
ON AO.Text_ID = GTS.Text_ID
WHERE PAO.Page_ID = <PageId>
AND GTS.Language_ID = <DisplayLanguageId>
ORDER BY AO.Location_On_Page, PAO.Display_Order

20 With respect to step 2214, the following instructions may be performed:

With respect to step 2222, the List that is returned to the caller may include;

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LocationOnPage
DisplayOrder
ActionObjectId
ActionObjectName
ActionType
Image
Label
URL
URLParameters

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Launch Target Enabled

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Function LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure. FIG. 23 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure. LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure builds the stored procedure that is an access rule associated with a given page. The UserId, LocationId, and DisplayLanguageId are automatically included as parameters to the stored procedure. Any other parameters required by the stored procedure must be supplied in the SelectionValues array.

	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	PageId	page identifier
	UserId	logon user identifier
5	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display
		language identifier
	AccessRuleId	access rule identifier
10	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value
		pairs of information
		necessary to process the
		access rules of the action
		objects
15	StoredProcedureName	name of stored procedure to
		be created
		DESCRIPTION .
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
	N/A	N/A

The method is performed as described in FIG. 23. With respect to step 2302, the following instruction may be executed:

SELECT <RuleExpression> = Rule_Expression
FROM Rules WHERE Rule_ID = <AccessRuleId>

With respect to step 2304, the following instructions may be executed:

With respect to step 2308, the following instructions may be performed:

Execute <SqlString>

With respect to FIG. 23 generally, an example is provided below under the heading "Example of LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure."

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<u>Function GetListHeaders</u>. FIG. 24 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function GetListHeaders. GetListHeaders returns the column headings in the requested language for the table to be built.

5	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node) identifier
10	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language identifier
	ContainerTypeName SelectionValues	name of the list to be displayed array of keyword and value pairs of information necessary to process the list
15		
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
	List	collection of list column headings information, including the display order and text
20		string

The method is performed as described in FIG. 24. With respect to step 2402, the following instruction may be performed:

25 SELECT <ContainerTypeId> = Container_Type_ID FROM Container_Types
WHERE Container_Type_Name = <ContainerTypeName>

With respect to step 2404, the following instructions may be performed:

SELECT DISTINCT GTS.TEXT_STRING AS Column_Name,
Display_Order

FROM Container_List_Columns AS CLC
INNER JOIN Gui_Text_Strings AS GTS
ON CLC.Text_ID = GTS.Text_ID
WHERE Container_Type_ID = <ContainerTypeId>
AND Language_ID = <DisplayLanguageId>
ORDER BY Display_Order

With respect to step 2408, the <List> that will be returned to the caller may include:

column heading text string display order

<u>Function GetListObjects</u>. FIG. 25 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function GetListObjects. GetListObjects returns an array containing all the information necessary to build the list presentation. Data is returned for each column with all the rows sorted into the proper order.

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	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node) identifier
10	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language identifier
	ActionObjectName	name of the action object leading to the list display
	ContainerTypeName	name of the list to be displayed
15	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value pairs of information necessary to process the list
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
20	List	collection representing a grid of the columns and rows in the list

The method is performed as described in FIG. 25. With respect to step 2502, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ActionObjectId> = Action_Object_ID FROM
Action_Objects
 WHERE Action_Object_Name = <ActionObjectName>

25

With respect to step 2504, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ContainerTypeId> = Container_Type_ID FROM
Container_Types
WHERE Container Type Name = <ContainerTypeName>

With respect to step 2506, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ActionRuleId> = Rule_ID FROM Rules AS R

INNER JOIN Action_Objects AS AO

ON AO.Action_Rule_ID = R.Rule_ID

WHERE AO.Action_Object_ID = <ActionObjectId>

With respect to step 2508, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT * FROM Container_List_Columns
WHERE Container_Type_ID = <ContainerTypeID>
ORDER BY Load_Order

20 With respect to step 2514, the following instruction may be executed:

5

With respect to step 2522, the following list will be returned to the caller based on <ColumnType>:

```
if <ColumnType> is action object
         include:
              ContainerId
              DisplayOrder
              ActionObjectName
              ActionObjectId
              Image
10
              Label
              DisplayFormat
              URL
              URLParameters
              Mode
15
              Launch
              Target
    else if <ColumnType> is label
         include:
              DisplayOrder
20
              Image
              Label
              DisplayFormat
```

Function LoadColumnStoredProcedure. FIG. 26 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadColumnStoredProcedure. LoadColumnStoredProcedure builds the stored procedure that retrieves the column information for a list presentation. The UserId, LocationId and DisplayLanguageId are automatically included as parameters to the stored procedure. Any other parameters required by the stored procedure are supplied in the SelectionValues array.

	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
10	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language
		identifier
15	ContainerTypeId	list type identifier
	OrderId	column order identifier
	ActionRuleId	access rule identifier
	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value pairs
		of information necessary to
20		process the access rules of the
		action objects
	StoredProcedureName	name of stored procedure created
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
25	N/A	N/A

The method is performed as described in FIG. 26. With respect to step 2602, the following instruction may be executed:

30 SELECT <ActionRuleExpression> = Rule_Expression
FROM Rules WHERE Rule_ID = <ActionRuleId>

. 5

With respect to step 2604, the following instruction may be executed:

With respect to step 2606, the following instructions may be executed:

```
<SqlString> = "CREATE PROC " & <StoredProcedureName>
10
   ) ۱۱ یع
             User Id int, @@Location Id int,
   @@Display_Language_Id int"
        For Each element In <SelectionValues>
              <SqlString> = <SqlString> & ", @@" &
15
                   <Keyword> & " varchar(255)"
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & ") AS SET NOCOUNT ON "
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & "Create Table
   #t Containers (Container_ID int)"
20
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & "INSERT INTO
   #t Containers (Container_ID) "
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & <ActionRuleExpression>
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & <ColumnRuleExpression> :
25
```

With respect to step 2608,

Execute <SqlString>

With respect to step 2610, the following instruction may be executed:

30

With respect to FIG. 26 generally, an example is provided below under the heading "Example of LoadColumnStoredProcedure."

<u>Function LoadLabels</u>. FIG. 27 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadLabels. LoadLabels identifies the labels associated with the named page. Output from the function is an array that identifies the labels by their symbolic name and provides the text strings to the caller in the language requested.

10	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	PageName	symbolic name for page
	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
15	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language
		identifier
	OT THE DITTE	DESCRIPTION
	OUTPUT	
	List	collection of labels that
20		includes the symbolic name and
		text string

The method is performed as described in FIG. 27. With respect to step 2702, the following instructions may be performed:

SELECT PL.LABEL_NAME, GTS.TEXT_STRING

FROM PAGES AS P,

INNER JOIN PAGE_LABELS AS PL

ON P.PAGE_ID = PL.PAGE_ID

INNER JOIN GUI_LABELS AS GL

ON PL.LABEL_NAME = GL.LABEL_NAME

INNER JOIN GUI_TEXT_STRINGS AS GTS

ON GL.TEXT_ID = GTS.TEXT_ID

WHERE P.PAGE_NAME = <PageName>

AND GTS.LANGUAGE_ID = <DisplayLanguageId>

15 With respect to step 2704, the <List> that will be returned to the caller may include:

label symbolic name
text string

Function GetDataFrames. FIGs. 28A and 28B are flowcharts describing a method associated with Function GetDataFrames. GetDataFrames returns an array containing all the information necessary to build a sequence presentation page. This information includes specifics about each of the data components including display information (display order, form tag, form, frame height, etc) as well as processing information (submit order, save action, cancel action, electronic signature required indicator, ASC name, data type identification, etc.)

10	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
15	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language identifier
	ActionObjectName	name of the action object leading to the sequence display
	ContainorNamo	
	ContainerName	name of the parent data
		container to be displayed in the
20		sequence
	DisplaySequence	name of the display sequence
	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value pairs
		of information necessary to
		process the data sequence
25		
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
	List	collection of data frame and
		associated data item information

The method is performed as described in FIGs. 28A and 28B. With respect to step 2802, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ActionObjectId> = Action_Object_ID FROM
Action_Objects
WHERE Action_Object_Name = <ActionObjectName>

With respect to step 2804, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ContainerId> = Container_ID FROM Containers
WHERE Container_Name = <ContainerName>

With respect to step 2806, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <SequenceId> = Sequence_ID FROM

Data_Item_Sequences

WHERE Sequence_Name = <DisplaySequence>

With respect to step 2808, the following instructions may be performed:

```
SELECT DT.ASC Object_Name, DISP.*, GTS.Text_String
         FROM Data_Item_Sequence_Pages AS DISP
         INNER JOIN Data Types AS DT
5
              ON DISP.Data_Type_ID = DT.Data_Type_ID
         FULL OUTER JOIN Gui Text Strings AS GTS
              ON DISP.HTML_FORM_PAGE_TEXT_ID = GTS.Text ID
         WHERE DISP.Sequence ID = <DisplaySequenceID>
10
              AND GTS.Language ID IN (null,
         <DisplayLanguageId>)
         UNION
         SELECT ' ' AS ASC_Object_Name, DISP.*,
   GTS.Text String
         FROM Data_Item_Sequence_Pages AS DISP
15
         FULL OUTER JOIN Gui Text Strings AS GTS-
              ON DISP.HTML FORM PAGE TEXT ID = GTS.Text ID
         WHERE DISP.Sequence ID = <DisplaySequenceId>
              AND Data Type ID IS NULL
              AND GTS.Language ID IN (null,
20
         <DisplayLanguageId>)
         ORDER BY Display Order
```

With respect to step 2812, the <List> that will be returned to the caller includes:

DisplayOrder - 5 SubmitOrder **FormPageName** FormPageAnchor FormPageLabel FormPage FormTag 10 FormSaveAction FormCancelAction FrameHeight ElectronicSignatureRequired ASCObjectName 15 DataTypeId DataItemId

With respect to step 2816 of FIG. 28B, the following instruction may be performed:

```
SELECT * FROM Action_Objects
WHERE Action_Object_ID = <ActionObjectId>
```

With respect to step 2822 of FIG. 28B, the following instruction may be performed:

With respect to step 2832, this step updates the <DataItemID> of <List>.

20

Function LoadDataItemsProcedure. FIG. 29 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadDataItemProcedure.

LoadDataItemsProcedure builds the stored procedure that retrieves the identification of the data elements to be displayed in the sequence presentation. The UserId, LocationId and DisplayLanguageId are automatically included as parameters to the stored procedure. Any other parameters required by the stored procedure are supplied in the SelectionValues array.

	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationId	location (client node)
		identifier
	DisplayLanguageId	logon user display language
15		identifier
	SequenceId	sequence identifier
	ActionRuleId	action rule identifier
	SelectionValues	array of keyword and value pairs
		of information necessary to
20		process the access rules of the
		action objects
	StoredProcedureName	name of stored procedure created
	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
25	N/A	N/A

The method is performed as described in FIG. 29. With respect to step 2902 of FIG. 29, the following instruction may be performed:

SELECT <ActionRuleExpression> = Rule_Expression FROM Rules WHERE Rule_ID = <ActionRuleId> With respect to step 2904 of FIG. 29, the following instructions may be performed:

```
<SqlString> = "CREATE PROC " & <StoredProcedureName>
5
   &
              "(@@User Id int, @@Location_Id int,
              @@Display Language Id int, @@Container_ID int "
         For Each element In SelectionValues
              <SqlString> = <SqlString> & ", @@" & <Keyword>
   & " varchar (255) "
10
         Next
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> & ") AS SET NOCOUNT ON "
         <SqlString> = <SqlString> &
              "SELECT C.Container_Type_Id, DO.Data_Item_Id,
                   DI.Data Type ID
15
              FROM Data Items AS DI
              INNER JOIN Data Objects AS DO
                   ON DI.Data_Item_ID = DO.Data_Item_ID
              INNER JOIN Containers AS C
                   ON C.Container ID = DO.Container ID
20
              WHERE DO.Container_ID ("
                   & <ActionRuleExpression> & ")"
```

With respect to step 2910,

25 Execute <SqlString>

With respect to step 2912, the following instructions may be performed:

<u>Function GetSelectorList</u>. FIG. 30 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function GetSelectorList. GetSelectorList identifies the values for the drop-down selector on the named page. The output of the function is a collection that contains the text strings to be displayed along with their internal identifiers.

	INPUT	DESCRIPTION
	PageName	symbolic name for page
	SelectorName	symbolic name for the selector
10	UserId	logon user identifier
	LocationID	location (node) identifier
	DisplayLanguageID	logon user display language
		identifier
15	OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
13		
	List	collection of text strings with
		the internal identifiers

The method is performed as described in FIG. 30. With respect to step 3002, the selector information retrieved includes an <ActionObjectArea>. The following instruction may be used:

SELECT SELECTOR_ID, ACTION_OBJECT_AREA
FROM SELECTORS S, PAGES P, DYNAMIC_SELECTORS DS

WHERE PAGE_NAME = <PageName>
AND S.PAGE_ID = P.PAGE_ID
AND DS.PAGE_ID = P.PAGE_ID
AND SELECTOR NAME <SelectorName>

<u>Function LoadDataItem</u>. FIG. 31 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function LoadDataItem. LoadDataItem retrieves the data associated with the passed in data item ID from the database. The function must determine the type of data to retrieve by querying the database for the appropriate table to load the data from. The output of this function is a collection of items retrieved for the passed in data item ID.

INPUT DESCRIPTION

DataItemID The ID of the data item to load

10

20

25

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION

ReturnList The collection of data that was

retrieved for this data item ID

The method is performed as described in FIG. 31. With respect to step 3102, the following instructions may be used:

```
SELECT Data_Types.*

FROM Data_Types

INNER JOIN Data_Items ON Data_Types.Data_Type_ID =

Data_Items.Data_Type_ID

WHERE Data Item ID = <DataItemID>
```

With respect to step 3106, the following instruction may be executed:

SELECT * FROM <DataTable>
WHERE Data_Item_ID = <DataItemID>

20

Function AddValue. FIG. 32 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function AddValue. AddValue is called prior to a call to SaveNewDataItem or UpdateDataItem. It takes a name/value pair and adds it to the collection maintained inside the VMdata class. This function is called by either ASP's or COM's to add individual data elements to a data item.

10	INPUT ControlName	DESCRIPTION The name associated with the data element; used for column name resolution
••	DataValue	The value of the data element; this value can be of any type handled by Visual Basic
15	OUTPUT N/A	DESCRIPTION N/A

The method is performed as described in FIG. 32.

<u>Function SaveNewDataItem</u>. FIG. 33 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function SaveNewDataItem. SaveNewDataItem saves the values passed in through AddValue as a single data item.

	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
INPUT	DESCRIPTION
LeftContainer	Left Container that will be
	associated with the new
	container created of type
DataType	The type of data being saved as
	defined in the data_types table
ContainerType	Container type of the new data
	item being saved as defined in
	the table container_types
OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
N/A	N/A
	LeftContainer DataType ContainerType OUTPUT

10

15

20

The method is performed as described in FIG. 33. With respect to step 3302, the following instruction may be executed:

```
SELECT * FROM Data_Types
WHERE Data Type_ID = <DataTypeID>
```

<u>Function UpdateDataItem</u>. FIG. 34 is a flowchart describing a method associated with Function UpdateDataItem. UpdateDataItem saves the values passed in through AddValue as a single data item. This function assumes that the data item has already been saved at some previous time.

INPUT DESCRIPTION

DataItemID Data Item to update

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION

N/A N/A

The method is performed as described in FIG. 34. With respect to step 3402, the following instructions may be executed:

```
SELECT Data_Types.* FROM Data_Types
INNER JOIN Data_Items ON Data_Types.Data_Type_ID =

DataItems.Data_Type_ID

WHERE Data_Item_ID = <DataItemID>
```

Example of LoadActionObjectStoredProcedure. A clinical user has logged on to the system that results in a request for the CLINICAL_USER_HOME page. All action objects for this page are identified:

PageName=CLINICAL_USER_HOME
PageId = 19

ActionObjectId	ActionObjectName	LocationOnPage	Display Order	ActionRuleId .
151	AO_Clinical_Patient_List	Standard Navigation	1	14
475	Add Clinic1 Patient	Standard Navigation	2	356
485	Add Clinic2 Patient	Standard Navigation	2	363
494	Add Clinic3 Patient	Standard Navigation	2	369
503	Add TRC Patient	Standard Navigation	2	377
527	Add Gladstone Patient	Standard Navigation	2	385
539	Add TBI Patient	Standard Navigation	2	395
9	Schedule List	Standard Navigation	3	10
10	Add Appointment	Standard Navigation	4	16
11	Video Conference	Standard Navigation	5	10
12	Alerts	Standard Navigation	6	10
5	Clincial User Nav Home	Standard Navigation	7	14
14	Configuration	Standard Navigation	8	10

Each action object in the list above will be evaluated to determine whether the resulting page will include the functionality represented by the action object. As an example of this evaluation, consider whether the user will be able to view the AO_Clinical_Patient_List action object.

A stored procedure is created which, when executed, will determine if the user has access or not. The access rule associated with the action object is:

```
AccessRuleId = 14
   AccessRuleName = Is User Not In Admin Group
   AccessRuleExpression =
   SELECT GCH.Left_container_ID
   FROM Container Hierarchy AS UCH
   INNER JOIN Container Hierarchy AS GCH
10
        ON UCH.Right_Container_ID = GCH.Left_Container ID
   INNER JOIN Data Objects
        ON GCH.Right Container_ID =
   Data_Objects.Container_ID
   INNER JOIN Groups
15
        ON Groups.Data Item_ID = Data_Objects.Data_Item_ID
   WHERE Groups.Group Name <> ''Administration''
        AND UCH.left container_ID = @@User_ID
```

This access rule determines whether the user logged on the system (@@User_ID) is in a group named 'Administration'. If not, access is granted. Otherwise, access will be denied.

A stored procedure named v2k_p_19_r_14 is programmatically created. The 'p_19' is for pageid 19 and 'r_14' is for access rule 14. The following is the body of the actual stored procedure:

```
if exists (select * from sysobjects where id =
object id('sqluser.v2k_p_19_r_14') and sysstat & 0xf = 4)
     drop procedure sqluser.v2k p 19 r 14
GO '
CREATE PROC v2k_p_19_r_14(@@User_ID int, @@Location ID int,
@@Display Language ID int) AS SET NOCOUNT ON
SELECT GCH.Left_container_ID
FROM Container_Hierarchy AS UCH
     INNER JOIN Container Hierarchy AS GCH ON
UCH.Right Container ID = GCH.Left Container ID
     INNER JOIN Data_Objects ON GCH.Right_Container ID =
Data Objects.Container ID
     INNER JOIN Groups ON Groups.Data Item ID =
Data Objects.Data Item ID
WHERE Groups.Group Name <> 'Administration'
    AND UCH.left container ID = @@User ID
GO
GRANT
       EXECUTE ON sqluser.v2k_p_19_r_14 TO sqluser
GO
```

<u>Example of LoadColumnStoredProcedure</u>. A user selects an action object on the page they are currently viewing. This action object leads to the display of another page that includes a list presentation.

Selection of the action object named 'AO_Active_User_Patient_B' is an example. This is the B tab in the A-Z presentation on the patient list. Clicking on 'B' leads to a list display of all the active patients whose last name begins with B, to which the clinical user has access.

The action object is defined as:

This action object navigates to the 'vm_list_display.asp' with a parameter to indicate the ContainerType of the list to be displayed is 'CT_Patient_List'. The container type controls the columns displayed. The action rule controls the rows displayed.

The action rule in this case is an invocation of pre-existing stored procedure named 'vmxsp_patient_list' which is defined in the following. The following stored procedure 'vmxsp_patient_list' demonstrates the complexity of the rules that the system supports:

```
if exists (select * from sysobjects where id =
object id('dbo.vmxsp_patient_list') and sysstat & 0xf = 4)
     drop procedure dbo.vmxsp patient list
GO
CREATE PROC vmxsp_patient_list(@user id int, @letter char, @filter
varchar(10), @status varchar(10))
AS
SET NOCOUNT ON
declare @likestring varchar(30)
select @likestring = @letter + '%'
CREATE TABLE #t_patients (container id int)
if @filter = 'USER'
BEGIN
     INSERT INTO #t_patients (container_id)
    SELECT distinct v1.Right_Container_ID FROM
v right cont hierarchy_type as v1
          INNER JOIN v_left_cont_hierarchy_type AS v2
               ON v2.Left_Container_ID = v1.Left Container ID
          INNER JOIN v_right_cont_hierarchy_type AS v3
               ON v3.Right_Container_ID = v2.Right_Container_ID
          INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS CH4
               ON CH4.Left_Container_ID = v1.Right_Container_ID
          INNER JOIN Data Objects AS DOBJ
               ON CH4.Right_Container_ID = DOBJ.Container_ID
          INNER JOIN Personal_Information AS PI
               ON PI.Data_Item_ID = DOBJ.Data_Item_ID
          WHERE v1.Right_Container_Type_Name = 'CT Patient'
                    AND v2.Left_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Relationship'
                    AND v3.Right_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Group'
                    AND v3.Left_Container_ID = @User_ID
                    AND PI.Sur_Name LIKE @likestring
                    AND CH4.Delete Status = 0
UNION
```

```
SELECT distinct v1.Left_container_ID FROM v_cont_hierarchy_and_types as v1
             INNER JOIN v_left_cont_hierarchy_type AS v2
                    ON v2.Right_Container_ID = v1.Right_Container_ID
             INNER JOIN v_right_cont_hierarchy_type AS v3
                    ON v3.Left_Container_ID = v2.Left_Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS CH4
                    ON CH4.Right_Container_ID = v3.Right_Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS CH5
                    ON CH5.Left_Container_ID = v1.Left_Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Data_Objects AS DOBJ
                    ON CH5.Right_Container_ID = DOBJ.Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Personal Information AS PI
                    ON PI.Data_Item_ID = DOBJ.Data_Item_ID
             WHERE v1.Right_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Telemedicine_Appointment'
                    AND v1.Left_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Patient'
                    AND v2.Left_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Relationship'
                    AND v3.Right_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Group'
                    AND CH4.Left_Container_ID = @User_ID
                    AND PI.Sur_Name LIKE @likestring
                    AND CH4.Delete_Status = 0
                    AND CH5.Delete_Status = 0
END
else
BEGIN
      INSERT INTO #t patients (container id)
      SELECT distinct v.Left_container_ID FROM v_left_cont_hierarchy_type as v
             INNER JOIN Data Objects AS DOBJ
                    ON v.Right_Container_ID = DOBJ.Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Personal Information AS PI
                    ON PI.Data_Item_ID = DOBJ.Data_Item_ID
             WHERE v.Left_Container_Type_Name = 'CT_Patient'
                    AND PI.Sur_Name LIKE @likestring
END
if (@status <> 'ALL')
BEGIN
      SELECT TPT.Container_ID FROM #t_patients AS TPT
             INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS CH
             ON CH.Left_Container_ID = TPT.Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Data_Objects AS DOBJ
                    ON CH.Right_Container_ID = DOBJ.Container_ID
             INNER JOIN Patients AS PT
                    ON PT.Data_Item_ID = DOBJ.Data_Item_ID
             INNER JOIN Single_Value Lists AS SVL
                    ON SVL.List_Entry_ID = PT.Status
             WHERE SVL.List_Name = 'Patient_Status'
                    AND SVL.Symbolic_Name IN ( @status )
                    AND CH.Delete Status = 0
END
else
BEGIN
      SELECT TPT.Container_ID FROM #t_patients AS TPT
END
RETURN
GO
```

The list type displayed for the patient list is:

```
ContainerTypeId = 11
   ContainerTypeName = CT_Patient_List
   LoadOrder = 1
   ColumnRuleExpression =
       SELECT (
        Given Name + '' '' + Middle Name + '' '' + Sur Name
   + '' '' + Suffix) AS Label,
        NULL AS Image,
10
         Container_Hierarchy.Left_Container_ID AS
   Container ID
         FROM Personal Information
         INNER JOIN Data_Objects AS Data_Objects
              ON Personal Information.Data Item ID =
15
        Data Objects.Data Item ID
         INNER JOIN Container Hierarchy AS
   Container Hierarchy
              ON Data Objects.Container ID =
         Container Hierarchy.Right Container ID
20
         INNER JOIN #t Containers
              ON #t_Containers.Container ID =
         Container Hierarchy.Left Container ID
         ORDER BY Sur Name, Given Name
```

A stored procedure named v2k_r_138_t_11_c_1 is programmatically created. The 'r_138' is for action rule id of the action object, 't_11' is the container type id for 'CT_Patient_List' and 'c_1' is the first column loaded to build the table. The following is the body of the actual stored procedure:

25

```
if exists (select * from sysobjects where id =
object id('sqluser.v2k_r_138_t_11_c_1') and sysstat & 0xf = 4)
     drop procedure sqluser.v2k_r_138_t_11_c_1
GO
CREATE PROC v2k_r_138_t 11 c 1(@@User ID int, @@Location ID int,
@@Display_Language_ID int) AS SET NOCOUNT ON
Create Table #t_Containers
Container_ID int
INSERT INTO #t_Containers (Container ID)
exec vmxsp_patient_list @@User_ID, 'B', 'USER', 'ACTIVE'
SELECT (Given Name + ' ' + Middle Name + ' ' + Sur Name + ' ' +
Suffix) AS Label,
     NULL AS Image,
     Container_Hierarchy.Left_Container ID AS Container ID
     FROM Personal Information
     INNER JOIN Data_Objects AS Data Objects ON
Personal Information.Data_Item_ID = Data_Objects.Data_Item_ID
     INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS Container_Hierarchy ON
Data Objects.Container_ID = Container_Hierarchy.Right_Container_ID
     INNER JOIN #t_Containers ON #t_Containers.Container_ID =
Container Hierarchy.Left_Container ID
      ORDER BY Sur Name, Given Name
GO
GRANT EXECUTE ON sqluser.v2k r 138 t 11 c 1 TO sqluser
GO
```

Alert Notification Subsystem. Alert notifications are available in the system, and are configurable using similar "rules". A particular embodiment of alert notification and configurability is described below.

5

Feature	Implementation
System allows a user to send	Adhoc Alert
an alert message to other	
user(s).	
System notifies user(s) of	Auto Alert
action objects events	
initiated by another user.	
Alert is presented via audio	Audio/Visual Alert
and/or visual signals at	
specified time interval based	
on priority.	
Alert is able to include data	Alert Data
items that can be viewed via	
action object mechanism.	
Alert is enabled based on	Alert Rule
predefined rule.	
Alert is sent to predefined	Alert User Rule
group(s) or user(s) based on	
alert user rule.	
Alert message is intelligently	Alert Message Template
generated based on system	
states.	

The general overall architecture and functionality for the alert subsystem is represented in FIG. 35. The general design of the alert subsystem is represented in FIG. 36. As shown in FIG. 36, the alert subsystem is composed of four main components: the Alert User Interface (UI); the Alert Dispatcher; the Alert Processor; and the Alert Data. Each component is separated from each other by the technology and functional capabilities that it encapsulates.

15

20

25

Alert User Interface (UI). FIG. 37 shows an example illustration of the Alert UI. The Alert UI encapsulates the visual and audio presentation solution for the alert. It uses many of today's most advanced browser technology such as ActiveX, HTML, DHTML, Java, Javascript, and VB Script to provide the most efficient and flexible solution interfacing user interaction with the alert. From the time a user logs on to the system to the time of log off, the Alert UI component tracks all alerts pertaining to that user and notifies the user appropriately of any incoming alert by a combination of sight and sound signals. Incoming and outgoing alerts are automatically saved until they are deleted by the user. When an action object is clicked on by the user, the underlying automatic alert UI component navigates the DHTML hierarchy to collect all of the contextual information for the alert generation process. The contextual information is important for the generation of intelligent automatic alerts.

Alert Dispatcher. When the Alert UI component completes its client's services, it sends a request to the appropriate server side Alert Dispatcher to handle the alert processing. The Alert Dispatcher is made up mostly of ASP pages that call the appropriate Alert Processor Interface based on the contextual information provided by the Alert UI component. The alert dispatch may be configured as part of the sequence presentation.

Alert Processor. When the Alert Processor is called, it processes all the contextual information to determine the user, the message, and the conditions for the alert. The Alert Processor interfaces with the database to obtain alert data for the alert(s) associated with the action object, the template for the alert, and the alert rule(s) for alert activation. The Alert Processor exposes three main public function interfaces to the Alert

Dispatcher for sending alerts. The interfaces and processes are represented in FIG. 38.

An important aspect of the Alert Processor component is the configurable method of generating alert messages and determining the alert criteria for the appropriate activation conditions and recipients. In order to include data in the body of a message, the alert template embeds field data in <! !> symbols. To determine the alert criteria for alert activation, the alert rule requires that embedded field data and conditional logic be surrounded by keywords and symbols. The required keywords, symbols, and their definitions for the alert rule text are as follows:

Keywords & Symbols	Definitions
!	Must surround an alert field
	name
@user	Denotes current user who is
	initiating the action object.
()	Must surround an alert rule
	statement
#AND#	Denotes AND logic
#OR#	Denotes OR logic
	Denotes Equality
<>	Denotes Inequality
>	Denotes Greater than
<	Denotes Less than
	Denotes Inclusive OR
~	Denotes Between
TRUE	Denotes Boolean - TRUE
	condition
FALSE	Denotes Boolean - FALSE
	condition

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Alert Data. The Alert Data component is composed of a set of data and tables residing in the database. The structure of the alert allows the association of action objects with alert templates and users. Alert data is generated when the SendAlert() function in the Alert Processor is called.

Alert Configuration. This section explains how an automatic alert can be enabled for an action object. The steps to configure an automatic alert for an action object are as follows:

1. Create a rule to identify the user(s) to receive the automatic alert.

For example, the following rule selects the users with logon names of 'Taylor' or 'Sorrels':

```
15
      SELECT PIC.Left_container_ID as container_id
      FROM Users
        INNER JOIN Data Objects AS PID
              ON Users.Data Item_ID = PID.Data Item_ID
         INNER JOIN Container_Hierarchy AS PIC
             ON PIC.Right_Container_ID = PID.Container_ID
20
        INNER JOIN Containers
              ON Containers.Container ID =
           PIC.Left_Container_ID
        INNER JOIN Container Types
              ON Containers.Container Type ID =
25
           Container_Types.Container_Type_ID
      WHERE Users.Logon Name in (''Taylor'', ''Sorrels'')
        AND container types.Container Type Name =
    ''CT_User''
```

5

2. Create an alert data rule to associate data with the alert.

For example, the following data rule selects a data element named 'X-Ray' with a date of today for the patient identified by @PatientId:

```
SELECT XRAY.Left_container ID as container id
      FROM Container Hierarchy as XRAY
         INNER JOIN Data Objects AS XRAYDO
10
              ON XRAYDO.Container ID =
           XRAY.Right Container ID
         INNER JOIN Container_Description AS XRAYCD
              ON XRAYCD.Data_Item_ID = XRAYDO.Data Item ID
         INNER JOIN Container Hierarchy AS PAT
              ON PAT.Right_Container ID =
15
           XRAY.Left Container ID
      WHERE XRAYCD.Name = ''X-Ray''
        AND XRAYCD.Creation_Date_Time >= convert(datetime,
   getdate(), 1)
        AND PAT.Left_Container ID = @PatientId
20
```

- 3. Create an alert rule to define the alert activation criteria.
- For example, the following rule sends an automatic alert when the message text included 'Dr' and 'Order':

```
(<!Name_TEXT!> | Dr) #AND# (<!Name_TEXT!>|Order) #AND#
(<!ACTION_MODE!> = EDIT) #AND#

30 (<!PROVIDER_USER_ID_VALUE!> > 0) #AND#
(<!SCHEDULED_DATE_TEXT!> = #OR#
<!SCHEDULED_TIME_TEXT!> = #OR#
<!REFERRER PRIORITY ID VALUE!> = )
```

4. Associate the alert user rule, alert data rule, alert rule, and alert template with an alert definition in the Alert Data Component.

```
AlertName = Dr Order Alert Definition
AlertUserRule = Alert_User_Rule_ID
AlertDataRule = Alert_Data_Rule_ID
AlertRuleId = Alert_Rule_ID
AlertTemplate =

!PERSONAL_INFORMATION.SUR_NAME!>

!PERSONAL_INFORMATION.GIVEN_NAME!>

!PERSONAL_INFORMATION.SUFFIX!> has orders pending
from <!@user.PERSONAL_INFORMATION.SUR_NAME!>

!@user.PERSONAL_INFORMATION.GIVEN_NAME!>

!@user.PERSONAL_INFORMATION.GIVEN_NAME!>

!@user.PERSONAL_INFORMATION.SUFFIX!>.
```

5. Associate the alert definition with an action object.

```
AlertName = Dr Order Alert Definition

AlertId = 8
ActionObjectName = Save Text Button
ActionObjectId = 452
```

Scope of the Invention/Other Embodiments. Although the invention has been described in reference to specific embodiments, the description is not meant to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the disclosed embodiment, as well as alternative embodiments of the invention will become apparent to persons skilled in the art upon reference to the description. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover such modifications that fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

APPENDIX A: TABLES

Table: ACTION_OBJECT_ALERTS

_	Columns
~	
,	COIGITIE

Name	Type	Size .
ACTION_OBJECT_ID	Number (Long)	4
ALERT_ID	Number (Long)	4

10

Table: ACTION_OBJECTS

Columns

	Name	Type	Size
	ACTION_OBJECT_ID	Number (Long)	4
15	ACTION_OBJECT_NAME	Text	50
	ACCESS_RULE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	ACTION_RULE_ID	Number (Long)	. 4
	TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
20	ACTION_TYPE	Text	30
	URL	Text	50
	URL_PARAMETERS	Text	255
	TARGET	Text	255
	IMAGE	Text	255
- 25	LAUNCH	Text	20
	ACTION_OBJECT_ANNOTATION	Memo	-

Table: ALERTS Columns

30	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
35	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	ALERT_DATETIME	Date/Time	8
	RESOLVE_DATETIME	Date/Time	8
	PRIORITY_ID	Number (Long)	4
	STATUS_ID	Number (Long)	4
40	SEND_TO	Memo	-
	RESOLVED_BY	Number (Long)	4

Table: AUDIO_DATA

Col	umns

	Name	Туре	Size
5	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
_	USER ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
10	DATA	Text	255
	VERSION ID	Number (Long)	4

Table: AUDITING

15 **Columns**

20

Name	Туре	Size
DATA_TABLE	Text	30
AUDIT_DATA_TABLE	Text	30
AUDIT	Yes/No	1
DELETE STATUS	Number (Long)	4

Table: AUTOMATIC_ALERT_DEFINITIONS

<u>Columns</u>

25	Name	Туре	Size
	ALERT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	ALERT_NAME	Text	50
	DYNAMIC_MESSAGE	Memo	-
	USER_LIST_RULE_ID	Number (Long)	4
30	DATA_LIST_RULE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	ALERT_RULE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	RESOLVE TYPE	Number (Long)	4

80

20

50

1

Table: CLIENT_APPLICATION_PARAMETERS

MANUFACTURER

SERIAL_NUMBER

VERSION

IN_USE

	Name	Type	Size
5	APPLICATION_ID	Number (Long)	4
	KEYWORD	Text	50
	KEYPATH	Text	255
	VALUE	Text	255
	TYPE	Text	20
10			
	able: CLIENT_APPLICATIONS Columns		,
	Name	Туре	Size
15	APPLICATON_ID	Number (Long)	4
	APPLICATION_NAME	Text	50
	DIRECTORY	Text	255
	EXECUTABLE_NAME	Text	255
	COMMAND_LINE	Text	255
20			
	able: CLIENT_PRODUCTS Columns		
	Name	Туре	Size
25	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
30	PRODUCT_TYPE	Text	80
	PRODUCT_NAME	Text	80

Text

Text

Text

Yes/No

50

Table:	CONTAINER_	_CROSS_	_REFERENCE
Colu	<u>mns</u>		

DISPLAY_FORMAT

	Columns		
-	Name	Туре	Size
	LOCAL_CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
5	EXTERNAL_SYSTEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
,	EXTERNAL_CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
10	Table: CONTAINER_DESCRIPTION		
10	<u>Columns</u>		
	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
15	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	NAME	Text	255
	DESCRIPTION	Memo Text.	255
	IMAGE	TEXE.	233
20			
	Table: CONTAINER_HIERARCHY Columns		
	Name	Type	Size
25	LEFT_CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
23	RIGHT_CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DELETE_STATUS	Number (Long)	4
30	Table: CONTAINER_LIST_COLUMNS Columns	·	
	<u>Name</u>	Туре	Size
	CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
35	COLUMN_TYPE	Number (Long)	4
	COLUMN_RULE	Memo	-
	DISPLAY_ORDER	Number (Long)	4
	LOAD_ORDER	Number (Long)	- 4 - 50
	INSULAT PURION	1 HY1	

Text

Table: CONTAINER_TYPES

Columns

	Name	Туре	Size
5	CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	CONTAINER_TYPE_NAME	Text	50
	DIRECTORY_SERVICES	Yes/No	1
	CLIENT_PATH_NAME	Text	32
	SERVER_PATH_NAME	Text	32
10	DELETE_STATUS	Number (Long)	4
	CONTAINER_TYPE_ANNOTATION	Memo	-

Table: CONTAINERS

15 **Columns**

	Name	<u>Type</u>	Size
	CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	CONTAINER_NAME	Text	255
	CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
20	DELETE STATUS	Number (Long)	4

Table: DATA_DEFAULT_RULES

<u>Columns</u>

25	Name	<u>Type</u>	<u>Size</u>
	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	FORM RULE	Memo	-

Table: DATA_ITEM_SEQUENCE_PAGES

C	umns

•	Name	<u>Type</u>	Size
	SEQUENCE_ID	Number (Long)	4 -
. ∙ 5	DISPLAY_ORDER	Number (Long)	4
	LEFT_CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	RIGHT_CONTAINER_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	SUBMIT_ORDER	Number (Long)	4
10	HTML_FORM_PAGE_NAME	Text	50
	HTML_FORM_PAGE_ANCHOR	Text	50
	HTML_FORM_PAGE_TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	HTML_FORM_PAGE	Text	50
	HTML_FORM_TAG	Text	50
15	HTML_FORM_SAVE_ACTION	Text	50
	HTML_FORM_CANCEL_ACTION	Text	50
	FRAME_HEIGHT	Number (Long)	4
	ELECTRONIC_SIGNATURE_REQUIRED	Yes/No	1

20

Table: DATA_ITEM_SEQUENCES

<u>Columns</u>

	<u>name</u>	rype	
	SEQUENCE_ID	Number (Long)	• 4
25	SEQUENCE_NAME	Text	30
	ICON_PAGE	Number (Long)	. 4
	SEQUENCE ANNOTATION	Memo	-

Table: DATA_ITEMS

30 <u>Columns</u>

	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
35	CREATOR_ID	Number (Long)	4
	SOURCE_TYPE	Number (Byte)	1
	SOURCE_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	LOCKED_BY	Number (Long)	4
	DELETE STATUS	Number (Long)	4

	Table: DATA_LOAD_RULES <u>Columns</u>		
	Name	Type	Size
	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
5	FORM_RULE	Memo	-
			,
	Table: DATA_OBJECTS		
	Columns		
		T	C:
10	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
	CONTAINER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	•		
15	Table: DATA_SAVE_RULES Columns		
	<u>Name</u>	Type	Size
	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	FORM_RULE	Memo	-
20			
	Table: DATA_TYPES		
	Columns		
	Name	Туре	Size
25	DATA_TYPE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DESCRIPTIVE_NAME	Text	50
	TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	ICON	Text	255
	ASC_OBJECT_NAME	Text	255
30	ASC_ICON_OBJECT_NAME	Text	25 5
	DATA_TABLE ELECTRONIC_SIGNATURE_DEFAULT	Text Yes/No	30
	DELETE_STATUS	Number (Long)	1 4
	DATA_TYPE_ANNOTATION	Memo	т -

Table: DEVICES Columns

4
4
8
8
1
80
80
80
20
50
1

Table: DICOM_DATA

Columns

20	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
25 .	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	DATA	Text	255
	VERSION_ID	Number (Long)	·· 4

Table: DIRECTORY_STRUCTURE

Columns

	Name	Type	Size
5	DATA_TYPE	Text	32
	TYPE	Number (Integer)	2
	HOST	Text	255
	PATH_NAME	Text	255

10

Table: DOUBLE_VALUE_LISTS

Columns

	Name	Туре	Size
	LIST_ENTRY_ID	Number (Long)	4
15	LIST_NAME	Text	30
	SYMBOLIC_NAME	Text	30
	VALUE1_TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	VALUE2_TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	IMAGE	Text	255
20	DISPLAY_INDICATOR	Yes/No	1
	DISPLAY_ORDER	Number (Integer)	2

Table: DYNAMIC_SELECTORS

25 **Columns**

	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
	SELECTOR_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	ACTION_OBJECT_AREA	Text	50
	DYNAMIC_ENTRY_ID	Number (Long)	4
30	DYNAMIC TEXT ID	Number (Long)	4

Table: FORMATTED_TEXT_DATA

_	ŧ		
·	ıu	т	ns

-	Name	Type	Size
5	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
,	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8.
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
10	DATA	Text	255
	VERSION_ID	Number (Long)	4

Table: GROUPS

15 **Columns**

	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
20	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	GROUP_NAME	Text	255
	DESCRIPTION	Text	255
	PRACTICE_TYPE_ID	Number (Integer)	2

25

Table: GUI_LABELS

<u>Columns</u>

	<u>Name</u>	Type	Size
30	LABEL_NAME	Text	32
	TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4

Table: GUI_TEXT_ID

35 **Columns**

Name	Type	Size
TEXT_ID	Text	255
TEXT_NAME	Text	50

Table: GUI_TEXT_STRINGS

Col	umns	

	Name	. Type	Size
5	TEXT_ID	Text	255
	LANGUAGE_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	TEXT_STRING	Text	255
	-		

10 Table: IMAGE_DATA

<u>Columns</u>

	<u>Name</u>	Type	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	. 4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
15	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	DATA	Text	255
	VERSION_ID	Number (Long)	4

20

Table: LANGUAGES

<u>Columns</u>

	Name	<u>Type</u>	<u>Size</u>
25	LANGUAGE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LANGUAGE_NAME	Text	15
	TEXT_ID	Text	255

30 Table: LISTS Columns

	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
	LIST_NAME	Text	30
	LIST_TABLE	Text	30
35	EDIT_LEVEL	Number (Integer)	2
	DEFAULT SYMBOLIC NAME	Text	30

Table: LOCATIONS

Columns

	Name	Type	Size
• 5	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
10	LOCATION_NAME	Text	50
	LOCATION_DESCRIPTION	Text	50
	STATUS	Number (Byte)	1

15 Table: MEDICAL_RECORD_NUMBERS

Columns

	Name	Туре	<u>Size</u>
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
20	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	MEDICAL_RECORD_NUMBER	Text	30
	MEDICAL_RECORD_DESCRIPTION	Text	255

25

Table: PAGE_ACTION_OBJECTS

Columns

	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
30	PAGE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	ACTION_OBJECT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	DISPLAY_ORDER	Number (Long)	4
	LOCATION_ON_PAGE	Text	30
	FIRE ACTION RULE	Yes/No	1

Table:	PAGE_	LABELS
Calu	MAC	

Col	u	m	ns	

5	Name	Туре	Size -
	PAGE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LABEL_NAME	Text	32

10 Table: PAGES

15

<u>Columns</u>

Name	<u>Type</u>	Size
PAGE_ID	Number (Long)	4
PAGE_NAME	Text	50
ASP_NAME	Text	255

Table: PATIENTS

Columns

20	Name	Type	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	· 4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
25	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	PRIMARY_PHYSICIAN_ID	Number (Long)	4
	STATUS	Number (Integer)	2

Table: PERSONAL_INFORMATION

Co	lu	m	n	<u>s</u>

	Name	Туре	<u>Size</u>
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
5	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
_	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	. 8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	SSN	Text	11
10	DOB	Text	14
	SEX_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	TITLES	Text	100
	SUR_NAME	Text	40
	GIVEN_NAME	Text	40
15	MIDDLE_NAME	Text	40
	SUFFIX	Text	10

Table: RELATIONSHIPS

20 <u>Columns</u>

25

Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
CREATION DATE TIME	Date/Time	8
SIGNED	Yes/No	. 1
RELATIONSHIP NAME	Text	255

30 Table: RULES Columns

	Name	Туре	<u>Size</u>
	RULE_ID	Number (Long)	. 4
	RULE_NAME	Text	50
35	RULE_EXPRESSION	Memo	
	PHIE ANNOTATION	Memo	_

Table: SELECTORS

Columns

	Name	Type	Size
5	SELECTOR_ID	Number (Long)	4
	PAGE_ID	Number (Long)	4
	SELECTOR_NAME	Text	· 32
	TYPE	Text	20

10

Table: SESSIONS

<u>Columns</u>

	Name	Туре	Size
	SESSION_ID	Number (Long)	4
15	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LOCATION_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LOGON_TIME	Date/Time	8
	LOGOFF_TIME	Date/Time	8
	LAST_UPDATED	Date/Time	8
20	APPOINTMENT_ID	Number (Long)	4
*	CURRENT_PATIENT_ID	Number (Long)	4

Table: SIMPLE_TABLE_SELECTORS

25 **Columns**

Name	Type	Size
SELECTOR_ID	Number (Integer)	2
LIST_NAME	Text	30
COLUMN_NAME	Text	30

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Table: SINGLE_VALUE_LISTS

SYSTEM_TYPE

INSTALL_ID

	Columns		
	Name	Туре	Size
5	LIST_ENTRY_ID	Number (Long)	4
_	LIST_NAME	Text	30
	SYMBOLIC_NAME	Text	30
	VALUE_TEXT_ID	Number (Long)	4
	IMAGE	Text	255
10	DISPLAY_INDICATOR	Yes/No	1
	DISPLAY_ORDER	Number (Integer)	2
15	Table: STUDY_DATA Columns		
		Туре	Size
	Name		4
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long) Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
20	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
20	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	NUMBER_OF_ROWS	Number (Integer)	2
	NUMBER_OF_COLUMNS	Number (Integer)	2
25			
	Table: SYSTEM_CONFIGURATION Columns		
	Name	Туре	Size
	KEYWORD	Text	50
30	VALUE	Text	255
	Table: SYSTEMS Columns		
	•		C:
35	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
	SYSTEM_ID	Number (Integer)	2
	SYSTEM_NAME	Text	50

Text

Text

20

Table: TEXT_DATA

<u>Columns</u>

	<u>Name</u>	Type	Size
5	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
10	DATA	Memo	•

Table: USERS <u>Columns</u>

15	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
20	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	LOGON_NAME	Text	32
	PASSWORD	Text	50
	VERIFY_PASSWORD	Text	50
	USER_TYPE_ID	Number (Integer)	2
25	STATUS	Number (Integer)	2
	DISPLAY_LANGUAGE_ID	Number (Integer)	2

Table: VIDEO_DATA **Columns**

	Name	Туре	Size
	DATA_ITEM_ID	Number (Long)	4
	USER_ID	Number (Long)	4
	LAST_MODIFIED_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
35	CREATION_DATE_TIME	Date/Time	8
	SIGNED	Yes/No	1
	DATA	Text	255
	VERSION_ID	Number (Long)	4

View: v_cont_hierarchy_and_types Columns

•	Name	Туре	Size
	left_container_id	Number (Long)	4
5	left_container_name	Text	255
	left_container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
	left_container_type_name	Text	50
	left_directory_services	Yes/No	1
	left_client_path_name	Text	32
10	left_server_path_name	Text	32
	left_container_type_anno	Memo	-
	right_container_id	Number (Long)	4
	right_container_name	Text	255
	right_container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
15	right_container_type_name	Text	50
	right_directory_services	Yes/No	1
	right_client_path_name	Text	32
	right_server_path_name	Text	32
	right_container_type_anno	Memo	-

20

View: v_containers_and_data_items

Columns

	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
25	container_id	Number (Long)	4
	container_name	Text	255
	container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_item_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_type_id	Number (Integer)	2
30	creation_date_time	Date/Time	8
	creator_id	Number (Long)	4
	source_type	Number (Byte)	1
	source_id	Number (Integer)	2
	locked_by	Number (Long)	4

View: v_containers_and_types

Columns

	Name	Type	Size
5	container_id	Number (Long)	4
	container_name	Text	255
	container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
	container_type_name	Text	50
	directory_services	Yes/No	1
10	client_path_name	Text	32
	server_path_name	Text	32
	container_type_annotation	Memo	-

View: v_data_items_and_data_types <u>Columns</u> 15

	Name	Туре	Size
	data_item_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_type_id	Number (Integer)	2
20	creation_date_time	Date/Time	8
	creator_id	Number (Long)	4
	source_type	Number (Byte)	1
	source_id	Number (Integer)	2
	locked_by	Number (Long)	4
25	descriptive_name	Text	50
	text_id	Number (Long)	4
	icon	Text	255
	asc_object_name	Text	255
	asc_icon_object_name	Text	255
30	data_table	Text	30
	electronic_signature_default	Yes/No	1.
	data_type_annotation	Memo	-

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View: v_data_objects_and_data_items

Co	lu	m	<u>ns</u>

	Name	Type	Size
5	container_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_item_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_type_id	Number (Integer)	2
	creation_date_time	Date/Time	8
	creator_id	Number (Long)	4
10	source_type	Number (Byte)	1
10	source_id	Number (Integer)	2 -
	locked_by	Number (Long)	4

15 View: v_data_objects_and_data_types Columns

	<u>Name</u>	<u> </u>	Size
	container_id	Number (Long)	4
	data_item_id	Number (Long)	4
20	data_type_id	Number (Integer)	2
	creation_date_time	Date/Time	8
	creator_id	Number (Long)	4
	source_type	Number (Byte)	1
	source_id	Number (Integer)	2
25	locked_by	Number (Long)	4
	descriptive_name	Text	50
	text_id	Number (Long)	4
	icon	Text	255
	asc_object_name	Text	255
30	asc_icon_object_name	Text	255
	.data_table	Text	30
	electronic_signature_default	Yes/No	1
	data type annotation	Memo	-

View: v_left_cont_hierarchy_type Columns

	<u>Name</u>	Type	<u>Size</u>
5	left_container_id	Number (Long)	4
	right_container_id	Number (Long)	4
	left_container_name	Text	255
	left_container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
	left_container_type_name	Text	50
10	left_directory_services	Yes/No	1
	left_client_path_name	Text	32
	left_server_path_name	Text	32
	left_container_type_anno	Memo	• •

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View: v_right_cont_hierarchy_type

<u>Columns</u>

	Name	Type	<u>Size</u>
	left_container_id	Number (Long)	4
20	right_container_id	Number (Long)	4
	right_container_name	Text	255
	right_container_type_id	Number (Long)	4
	right_container_type_name	Text	50
	right_directory_services	Yes/No	1
25	right_client_path_name	Text	32
	right_server_path_name	Text	32
	right_container_type_anno	Memo	-

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WE CLAIM:

CLAIMS:

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1. A method of dynamically generating a user presentation, the method comprising:

in response to a request from an application program, selecting and retrieving at least one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases; executing the rule to retrieve data from the one or more databases;

8 and

generating presentation data based on the data, where the presentation data is for use in the user presentation of the application program.

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- 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein executing the rules comprises executing the rules using rule control information.
- 16 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein executing the rules comprises executing the rules using rule control information including at least one of user information, user group information, location information, and node information.

- 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the rules comprise query statements.
- 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the rules comprise Structured Query Language (SQL) statements.

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	6.	Software for use on one or more servers of a computer
2	network, sa	id software executable for:

in response to a first request from an application program, selecting and retrieving at least a first one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases;

executing the first ones of the rules to retrieve a first set of data from the one or more databases;

generating first presentation data based on the first set of data, where the first presentation data is for use in a first user presentation of the application program;

in response to a second request from the application program, selecting and retrieving at least a second one of a plurality of rules stored in the one or more databases;

executing the second ones of the rules to retrieve a second set of data from the one or more databases; and

generating second presentation data based on the second set of data, where the second presentation data is for use in the second user presentation of the application program.

- 7. The software according to claim 6, wherein executing the rules comprises executing query statements.
- 8. The software according to claim 6, wherein executing the rules comprises executing Structured Query Language (SQL) statements.

	9.	Software for use on one or more servers, the software
2	executable for	or:

in response to a request from an application program, selecting and retrieving at least one of a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases; executing the rules to retrieve presentation control data from the one or more databases for selection of a subset of a plurality of visual objects represented by data; and

generating presentation data based on the presentation control data, where the presentation data is for use in a graphical user presentation of the application program.

10. Software for use on one or more servers, the software being executable for:

executing a rule to retrieve user data from one or more databases, using as input at least one of user information, user group information, location information, and node information; and

generating presentation data using the user data.

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11. One or more databases for use with one or more servers in a health care information network, said database storing executable user presentation rules for use by said server.

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12. The one or more databases according to claim 11, wherein said database stores the executable user presentation rules in association with client information.

2	13.	The one or more databases according to claim 12, wherein said
	client inform	nation comprises at least one of client user information, client
4	group inforn	nation, and client node information.
6	14.	The one or more databases according to any one of claims
	11-13, wher	ein said executable user interface presentation rules comprise
8	database qu	ery statements.
10	15.	A computer network, comprising:
	one o	r more servers having software executable for:
12		receiving an instruction from a client through an application
	program;	
14		selecting and retrieving one or more of a plurality of
	presentation	rules stored in one or more databases;
16		executing, against the one or more databases, the one or more
	presentation	rules using rule control data as input, to thereby receive data;
18		generating presentation data based on the data;
		sending the presentation data to the client,
20	a clier	nt, for
		sending the instruction to the server through the application
22	program;	
		receiving the presentation data; and
24		generating a graphical user interface (GUI) presentation based

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on the presentation data.

	16. The computer network according to claim 15, wherein the
2	plurality of presentation rules comprise query statements.
4	17. The computer network according to claim 15, wherein the
	computer application comprises a browser.
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	18. A computer health care network, comprising:
8	one or more databases;
	one or more servers having software executable for:
10	receiving a request from a client through a computer application
	program;
12	in response to the request, selecting and retrieving one or more
	of a plurality of rules stored in the one or more databases;
14	executing, against the one or more databases, the one or more
	rules using rule control data as input thereto, thereby receiving data;
16	building presentation data in accordance with the data; and

19. The computer health care network according to claim 18, 20 further comprising:

presentation in the computer application program.

visually displaying, at the client, the user presentation in the computer 22 application program.

sending the presentation data to the client for use in a user

20. The computer health care network according to claim 18, wherein the rule control data includes at least one of user data, location data, 26 and node data.

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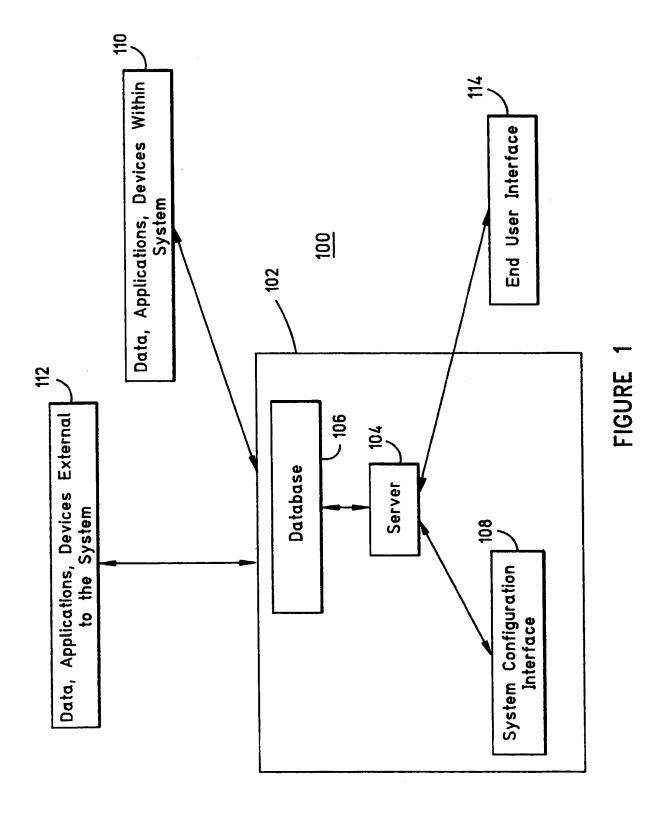
4

- 21. The computer health care network according to claim 18, wherein the rules comprise at least one database query statement.
- 22. One or more servers comprising software executable for:
 retrieving one or more rules stored in one or more databases;
 receiving data from the one or more databases by executing the rule
- with at least one of client user information, client user group information, client location information, and client node information as input;
- selecting one or more display components based on the data; and assembling presentation data based on the selected display

12 components.

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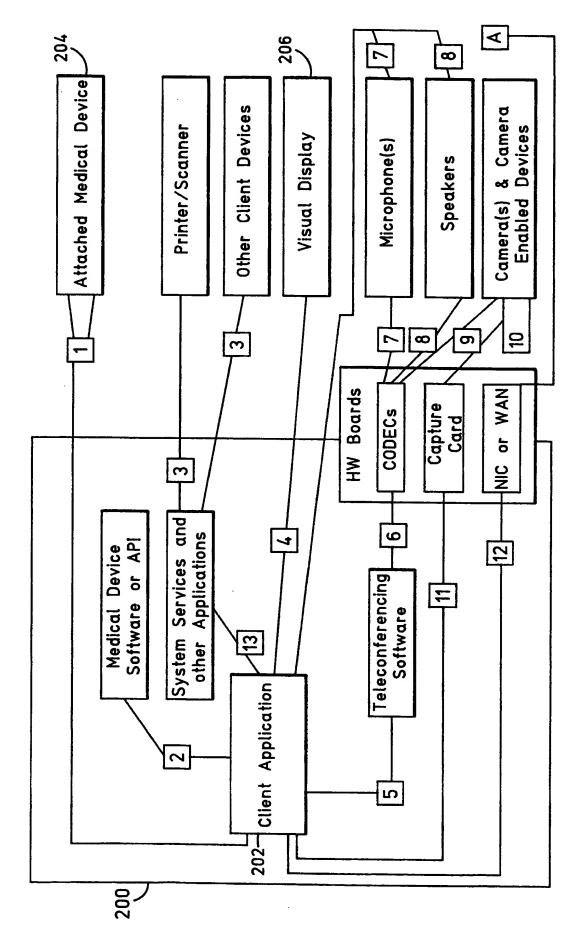
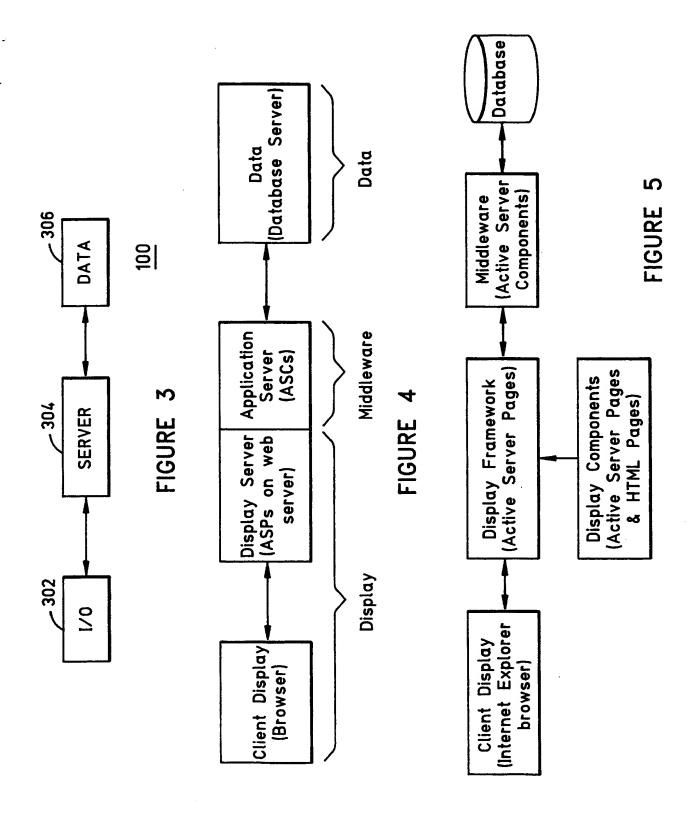
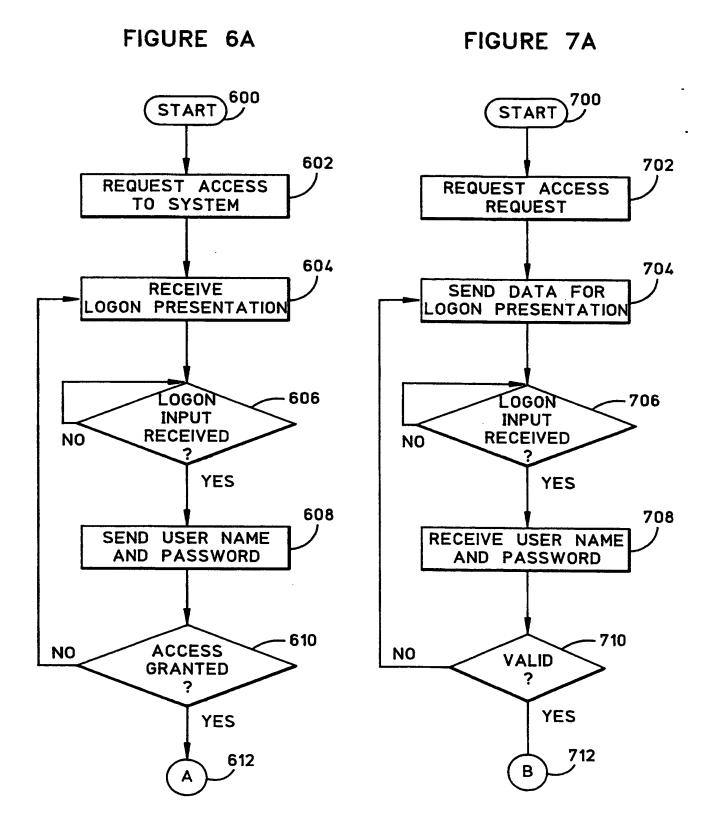


FIGURE 2

3/34





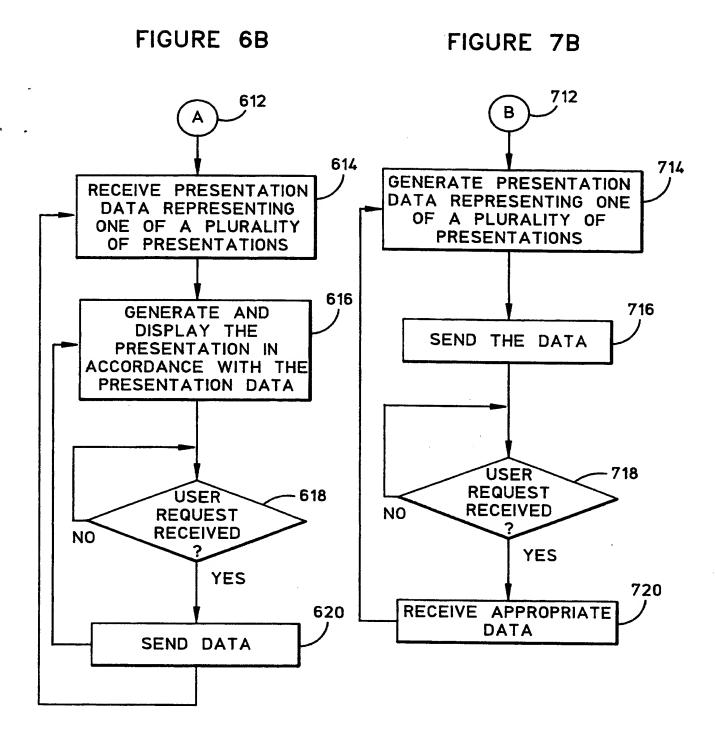
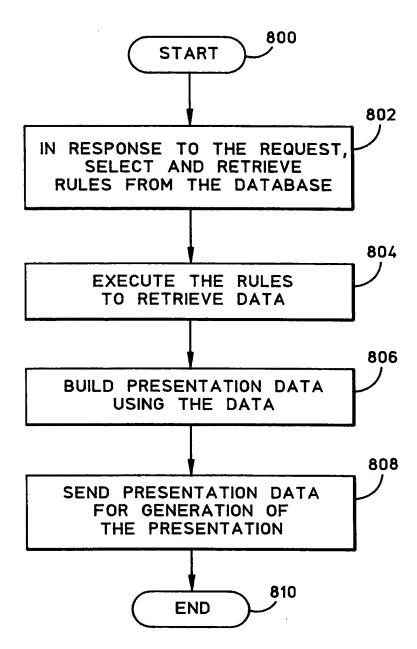


FIGURE 8



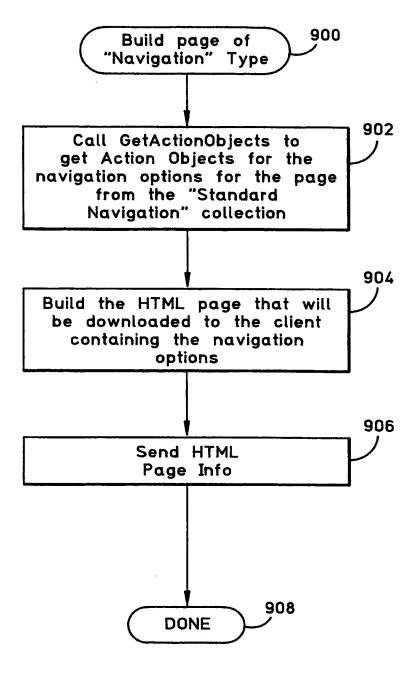
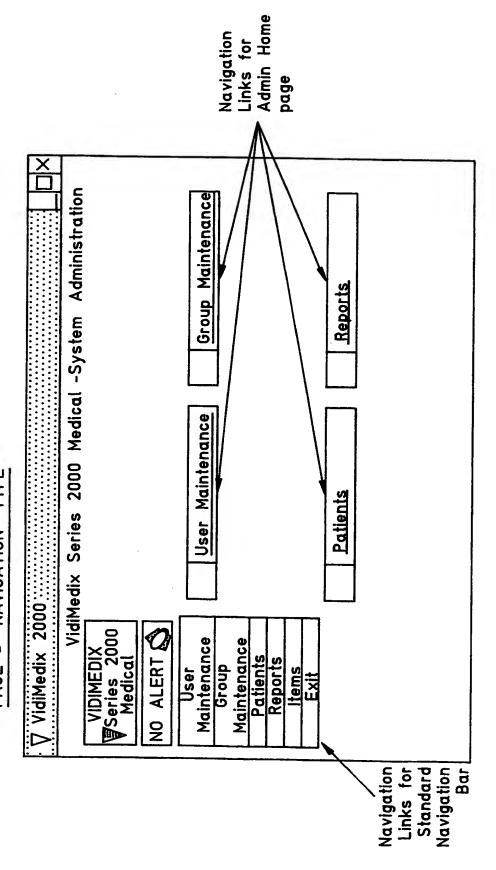
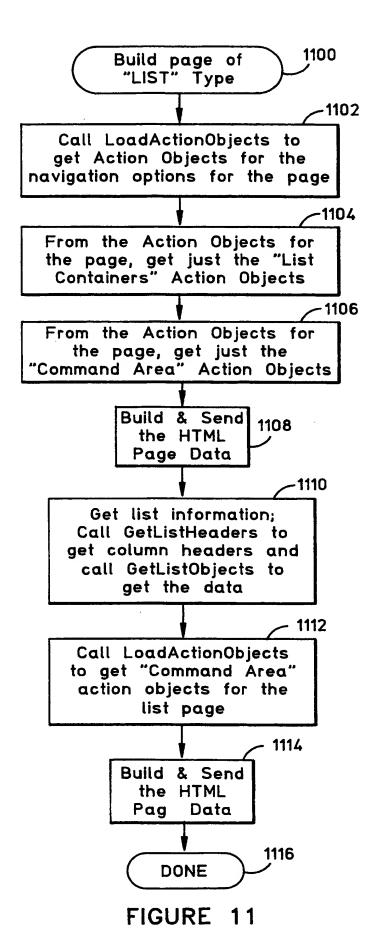


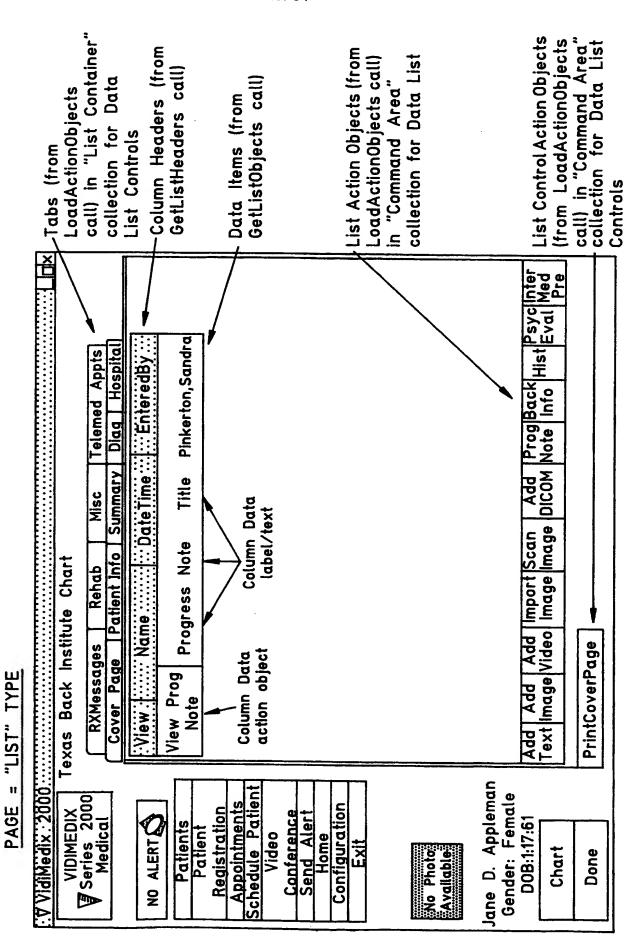
FIGURE 9

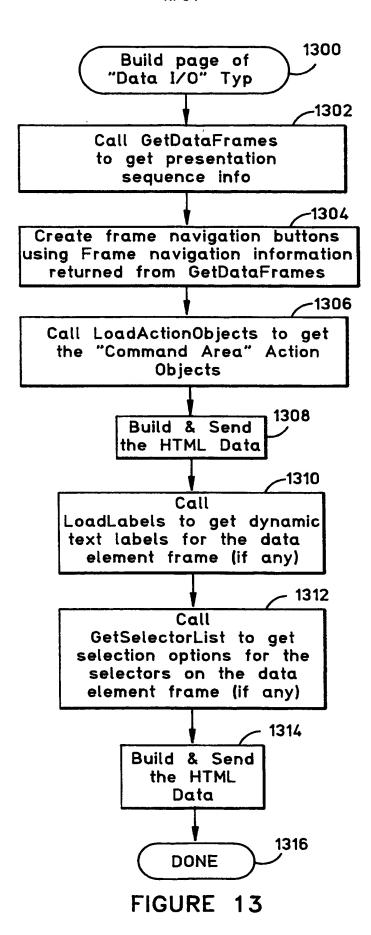
IGURE 10
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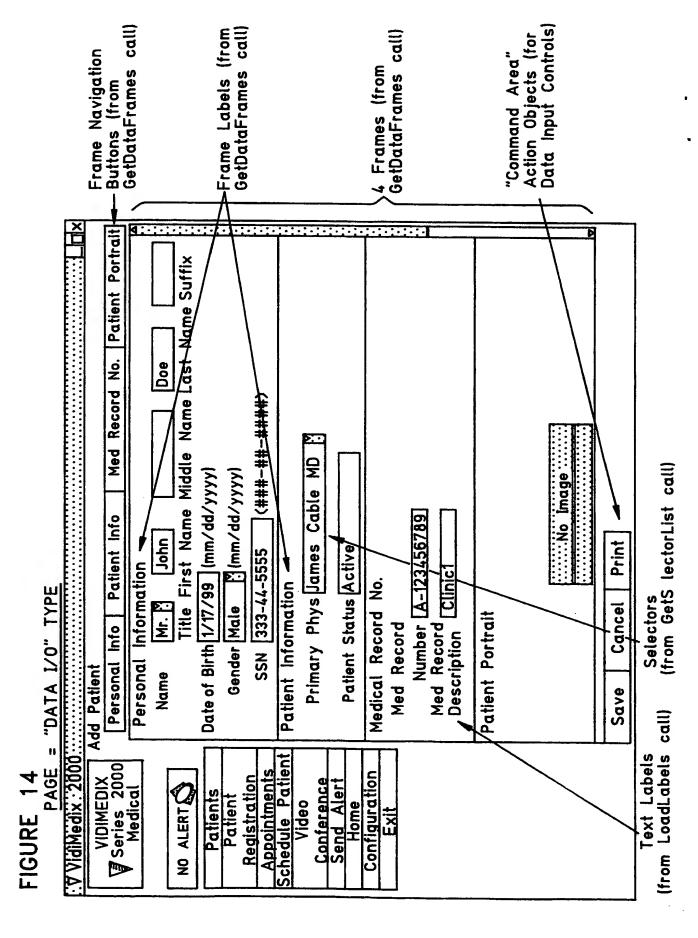




IGURE 12







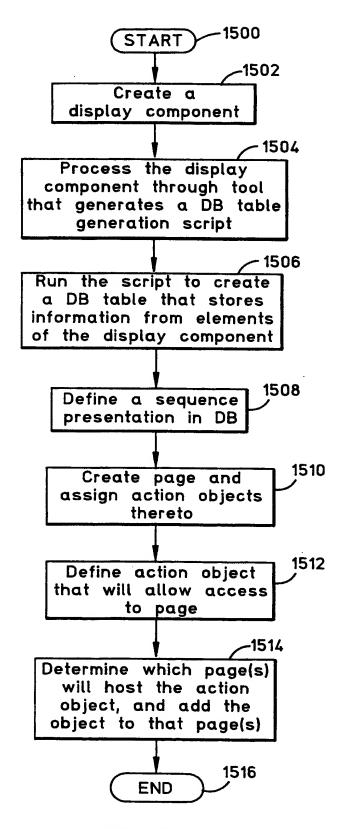
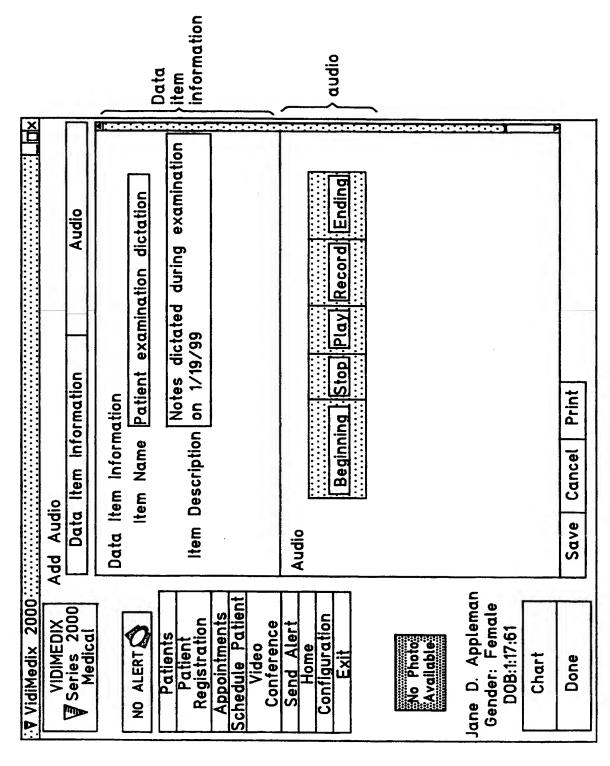


FIGURE 15

FIGURE 16		ta	User created	display	(HTML)	User created	800	3		4	roal roal	display	Component 3					33	,S. Embedded data	,s. list framework.	P	
	Texas Back Institute Chart RXMsgs Rehab Misc Telemed Appts Cover Page Patient Info Summary Diag Hospital	Allergies Personal Data Vital Signs Other Data	Allergies	No Known or Detected Allergies		Patient Data Patient	ne Appleman, Jane D. 135-15-6167	Sians		DATE WT B.P. PULSE HT.		NI CI ETCIN		I FT□IN			Other Data	View Name Date/Time EnteredBy	View Miss Reyes Jan.131999 11:11:31AM Pinkerton,S.	View Adam Mount Jan.131999 11:11:31AM Pinkerton,S.	Scan Document	Save Exit Cancel
Cover Tab VidiMedix 2000	VIDIMEDIX Formes 2890 Medical		NO ALERT	Patients	Registration	Schedule Patient	Video	Send Alert	Configuration	Exit			No Photo		Jane D. Appleman	Gender: Female DOB:1:17:61	Chart		Done			

FIGURE 17



information Data item text patient **Text** chest x-ray. Initial observation ģ observed. Has no allergies. ō May need to consult Dr. A.I Information provided indicated no abnormalities. 1/19/99 Patient came complaining Had the patient take a Item Name Patient interview external injuries were breathing difficulties. Item Description on visit of Data Item Information <u>←</u> Print Data Item Information FIGURE Cancel Text Save Text Jane D. Appleman VIDIMEDIX ▼ Series 2000 Medical Schedule Patient VidiMedix 2000 Gender: Female Appointments Configuration Registration Conference Send Alert D0B:1:17:61 NO ALERT Patients Patient Video Avallable No Photo Ноше Chart Done

\SDOCID: <WO 0045301A1 I >

FIGURE 19

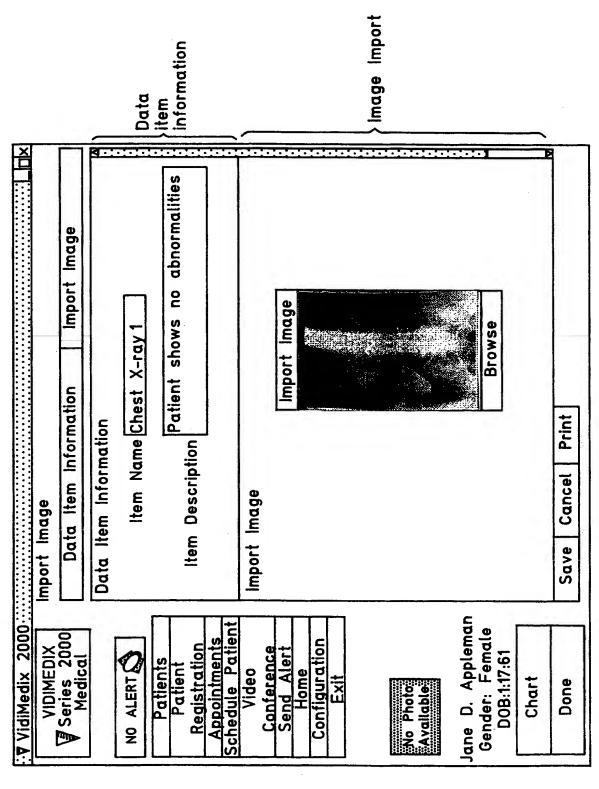


FIGURE 20	Data Sitem information	Progress Note Top (User Defined)	audio	text	Progress Note Bottom (User Defined)
▼VidiMedix 2000 LDX VIDIMEDIX TBI Progress Note	Data Item Item De	Schedule Patient Video Conference Send Alert Home Configuration Exit Video Configuration Configuration Frogress Note Texas Back Institute, Plano Doe, Jane E. 1/20/99 1/20/99 FOLLOW-UP PROGRESS NOTE	Beginning Stop Play Record Ending No changes since last visit.	Jane E. Doe for follow-up. Gender: Female for follow-up. 3:1:68 Chart	Done CC: Dr.B D. 1719/99 R. 1719/99 T. 1720/99 Save Cancel

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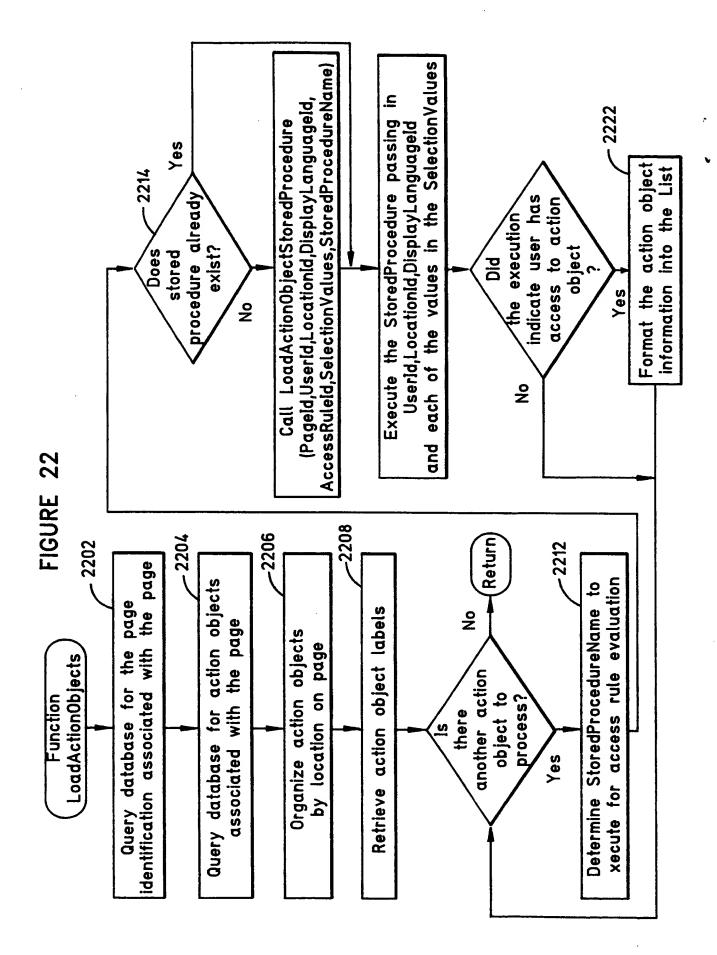


FIGURE 23

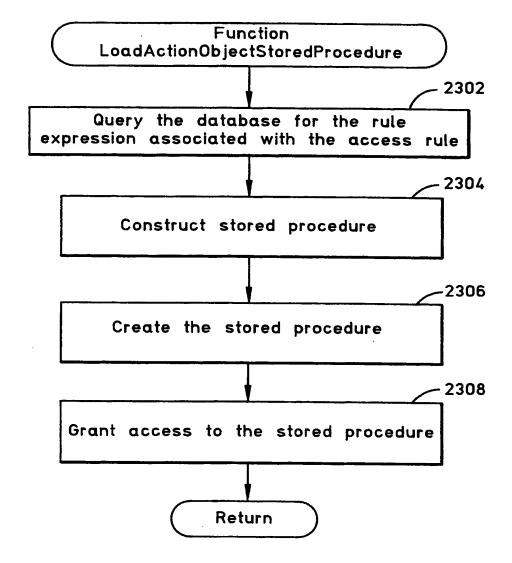
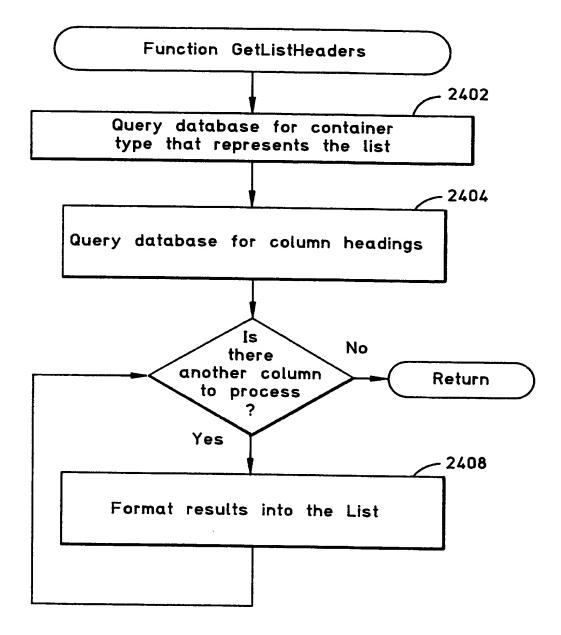


FIGURE 24



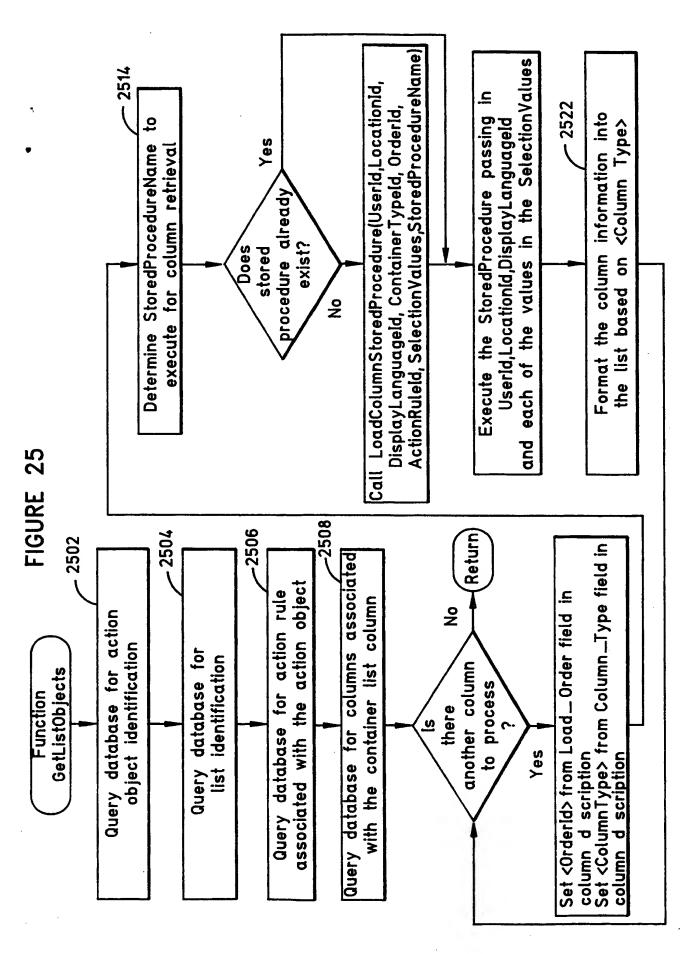
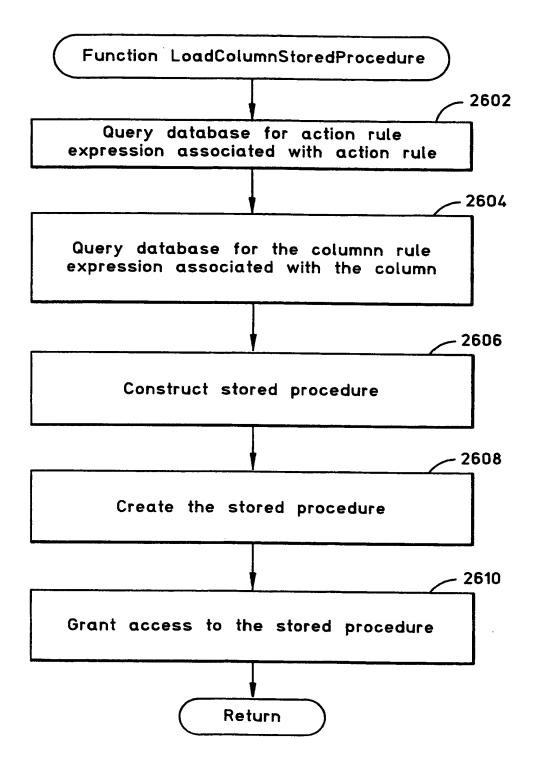


FIGURE 26



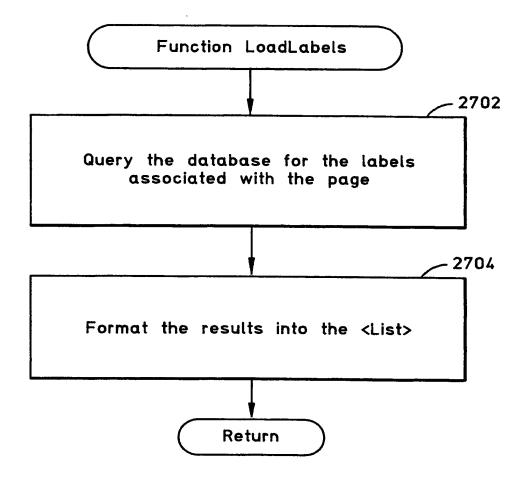
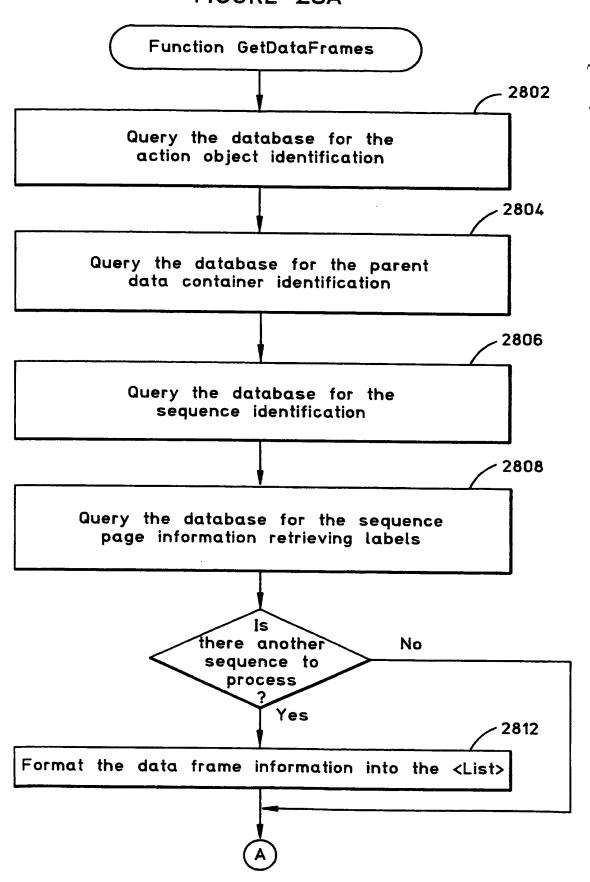
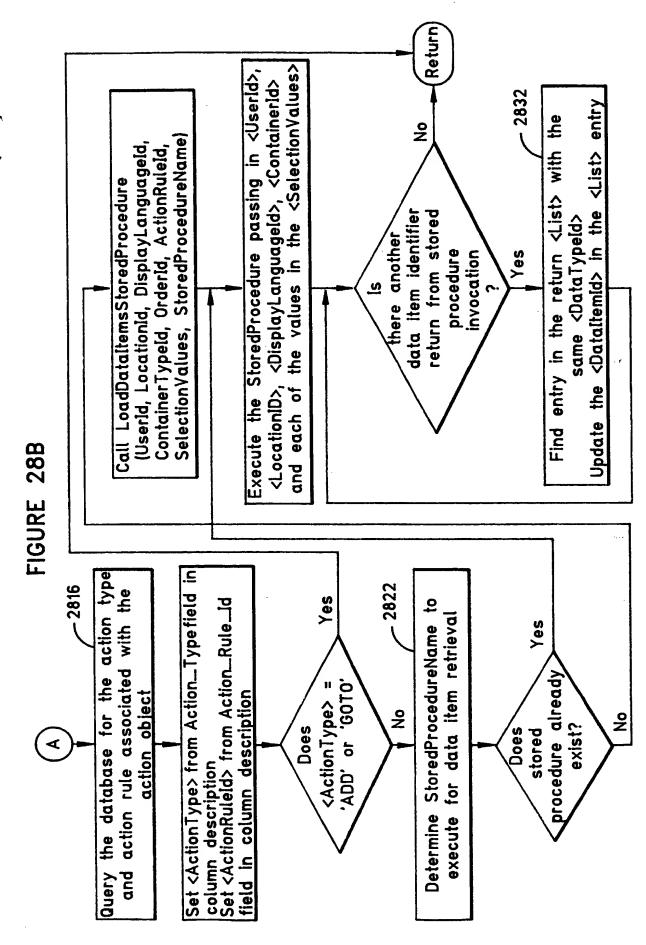


FIGURE 28A







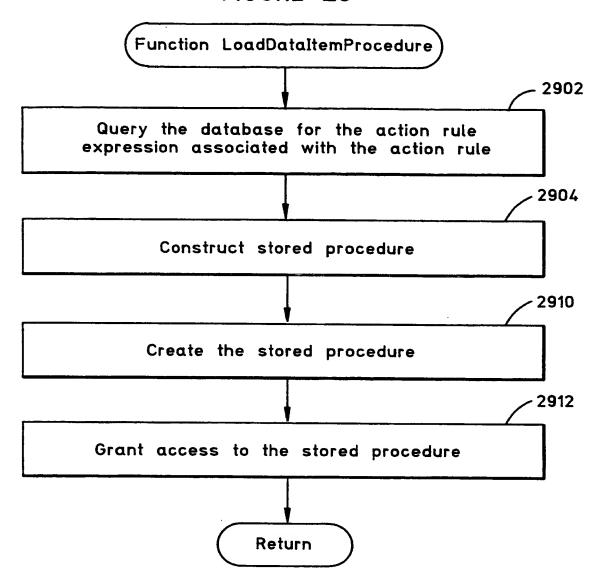
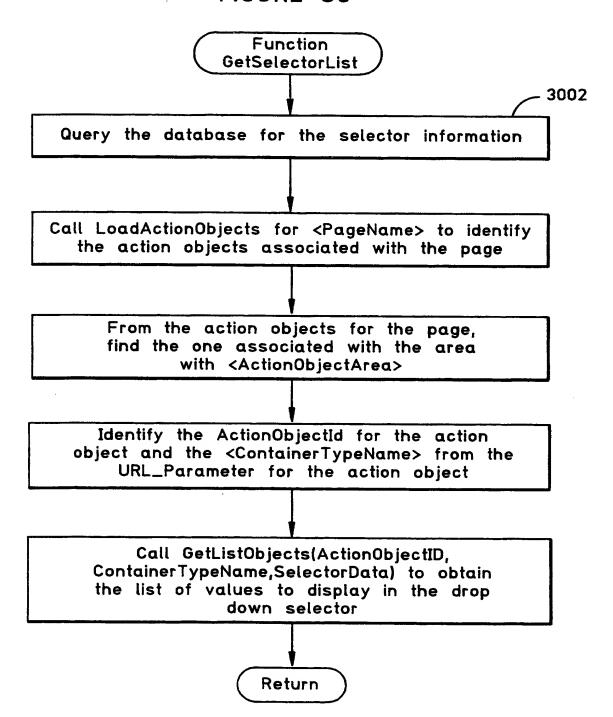
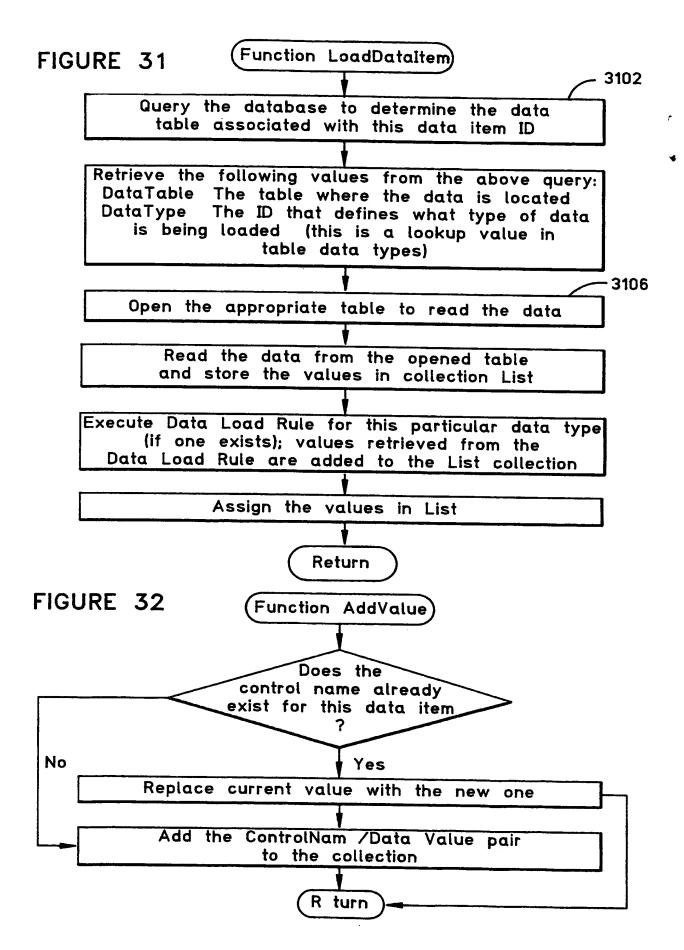
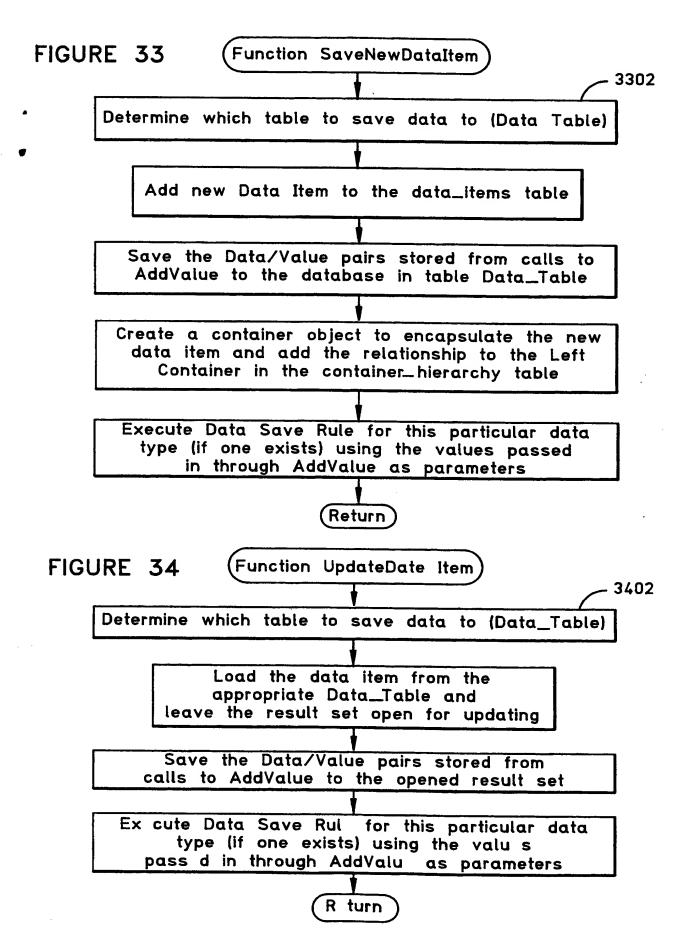


FIGURE 30







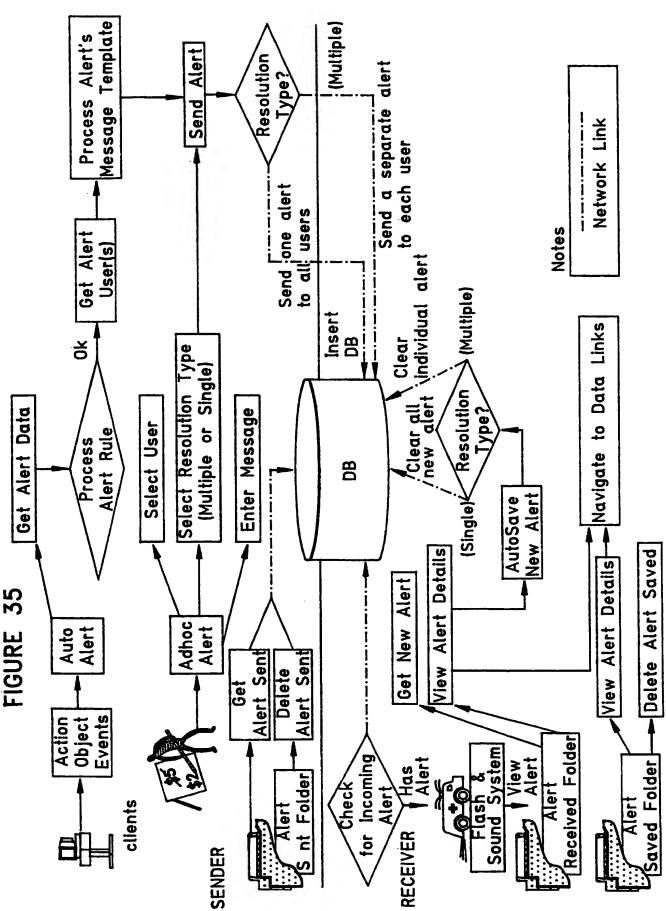
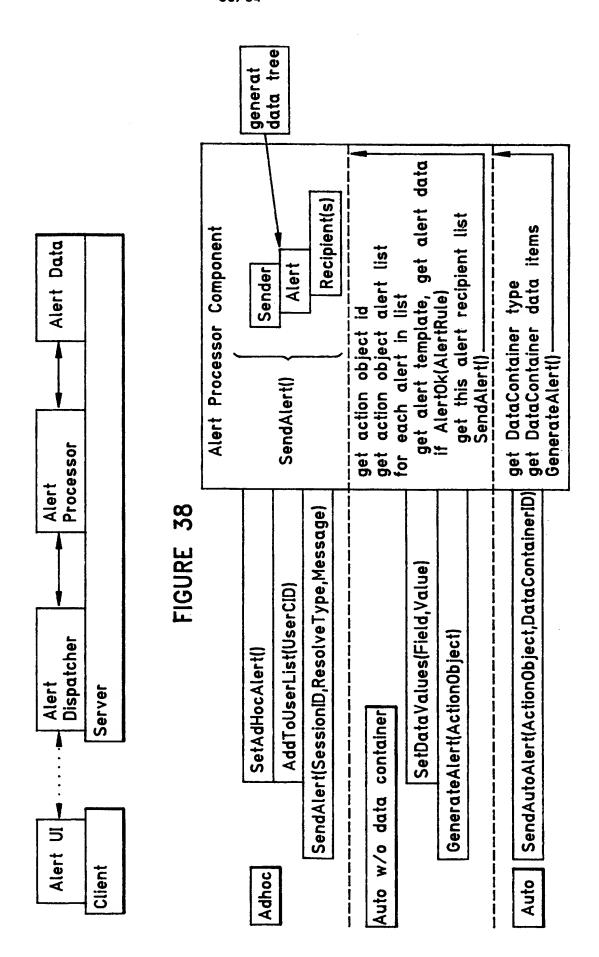


FIGURE 36



	Alert	FIGURE 37	
Alert icon-flash & sound VidiMedix Series 2000 Medical Microsoft Internet Explorer File Edit Yiew Go Favorites Help File Formation Formation Formation Formation Files File	Time Action Patient Visit Type 12:00AM View Gender:Male Consulation Age:29 Comprehensiv Ayailable John Doe John Doe Gender:Male Age:29 Consulation Call Ayailable Age:29 Consulation Chart No Photo Expanded	Alert Sch Alert Aler View Aler View Alert Details View Alert Details View Alert Details	FINT Alert Received

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

tional Application No. PCT/US 00/01839

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/30 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G06FDocumentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X WO 98 32076 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS 1-3,6, NV ; PHILIPS NORDEN AB (SE)) 9-13,15, 23 July 1998 (1998-07-23) 17-20,22 Y 4,5,7,8, 14,16,21 page 1, line 26 -page 3, line 20 page 4, line 20 -page 6, line 17 page 10, line 10 -page 11, line 10 Y US 5 410 693 A (YU HONG-LEE ET AL) 4,5,7,8, 25 April 1995 (1995-04-25) 14,16,21 A 1,6,11, 15,18,22 abstract column 1, line 54 -column 2, line 13 figure 8 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "I later document published after the International filing date "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Invention earlier document but published on or after the international *X° document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 25 May 2000 02/06/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA **Authorized** officer European Patent Office, P.B. 581è Fatentiaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Abbing, R

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Int. Jonal Application No PCT/US 00/01839

242		PCT/US 00/01839				
Category *	rtion) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.			
			Tiborali to Galli No.			
Α	WO 98 15910 A (SCHULTZ JOSEPH PAUL ;SCHULTZ MYRON G (US)) 16 April 1998 (1998-04-16) the whole document		1-3,6, 9-13,15, 17-20,22			
A	FRANCE F H R: "Control and use of health information: a doctor's perspective" INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BIO-MEDICAL COMPUTING, IE, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, SHANNON, vol. 43, no. 1, 1 October 1996 (1996-10-01), pages 19-25, XP004015604 ISSN: 0020-7101 the whole document		18-21			
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

Int Jonal Application No PCT/US 00/01839

	Patent document ed in search repor	nt	Publication date		atent family member(s)	Publication date	
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US	5 5410693	Α	25-04-1995	AU	679337 B	26-06-1997	
_				AU	1730895 A	15-08-1995	
•				BR	9506644 A	16-09-1997	
				CA	2180449 A	03-08-1995	
7				CN	1140499 A	15-01-1997	
•				EP	0744056 A	27-11-1996	
				JP	9510306 T	14-10-1997	
				NO	963114 A	26-09-1996	
				NZ	281007 A	25-03-1998	
				WO	9520792 A	03-08-1995	
WC	9815910	A	16-04-1998	AU	4606597 A	05-05-1998	

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